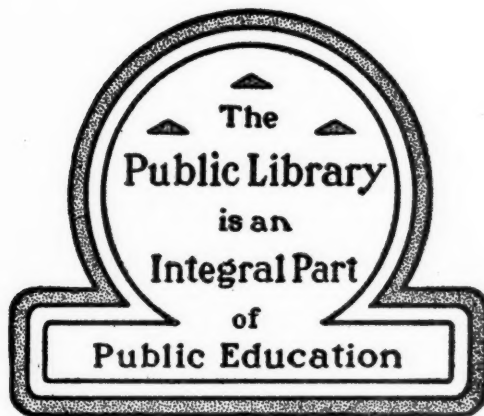


# Public Libraries



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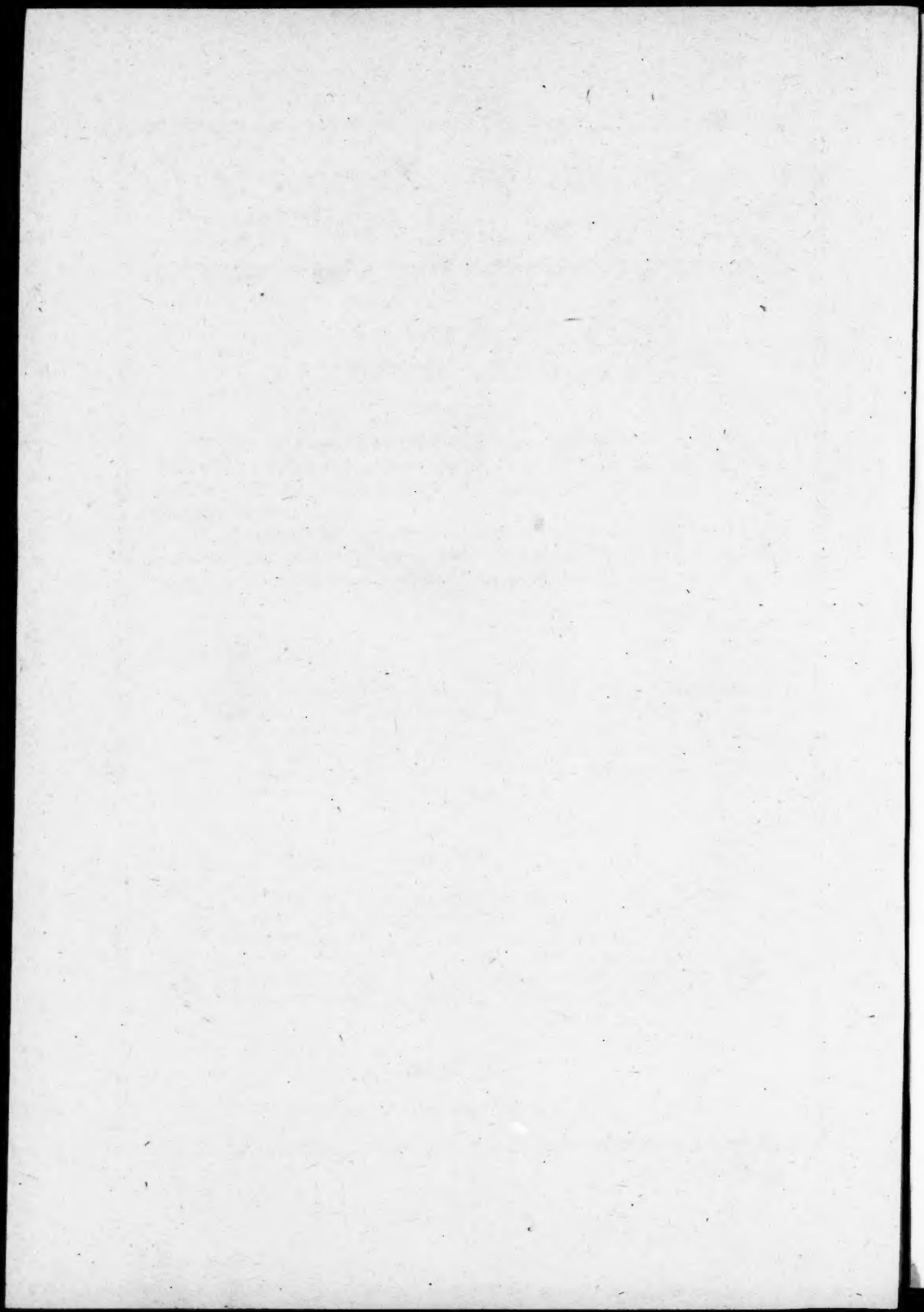
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# Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 15

January, 1910

No. 1

## Labor and Rewards in the Library\*

Arthur E. Bostwick, Librarian of Public Library,  
St. Louis, Mo.

The uses that are made of collections of books have multiplied and expanded during a comparatively brief period. This expansion has taken place particularly and to a special degree in the United States; we are praised for it by some and blamed, or even ridiculed, by others. I do not know how to characterize it briefly better than by saying that the persons whom the library may treat as its clients have multiplied. Formerly they were those who, recognizing their need of books, sought out the library and voluntarily entered its walls. Now they are those whose needs, whether they themselves recognize them or not, the library sees, and reaching out its arms, gathers them in. These arms have grown and developed until they are like the tentacles of some benevolent octopus. Here we have our branch systems; there our traveling libraries; here our coöperation with the schools; there our inter-library loans; here our special work with children, our picture-bulletins, our story-hours; there our efforts to interest the practical man, our technology departments, our books on the trades and manufactures. And everywhere our attempts, more or less well regulated, to impress upon the public our desire to put each man in connection with the book that will fill his needs—that will please him and benefit him most.

We in the North have been accustomed to regard Atlanta as the pioneer

and center of this new kind of library work in the South, and I have seen nothing since I came here to conflict with this idea. The South is conservative—a characteristic that it shares, contrary to popular estimation, with the states of the whole Atlantic seaboard. That New England has more public libraries in proportion to population than the South is not because it has the fever of radicalism in its veins—the desire to take up something new simply because it is new, but because it began earlier to experiment with public libraries. The Atlantic states, north and south, in distinction to the newer and more strenuous West, are conservative, not in the bad sense that they reject what is new simply because it is new, but in the sense that they insist on a careful testing and examination before acceptance. New England, owing to economic conditions over which none of us have had control, began her testing earlier, and having, like Davy Crockett, made sure she was right, went ahead. A visit to Atlanta should convince anyone that the South has now also tested and approved, and is going ahead; and we have material evidence here in this school that you are preparing to send out trained messengers to bear the good news to those communities that may not yet have realized its import.

You, who realize all this, understand that you are coming into a strenuous heritage. The librarian is now no mere custodian of a dim and dusty realm where rest decaying tomes and where dwell vague memories of the past. The modern library is alive; the past is there, but it lives anew, for we strive to bring

\*Address to the graduating class of the Library school, Atlanta, Ga., June 1, 1909.

it like all else on our shelves into vital and immediate contact with the life and the needs of today. Thus librarianship means work, and thus it is proper that we should pause a moment to consider the nature of work and of the rewards that it brings and that it may properly expect.

The socialists will tell you that all work is a matter of effort and should be rewarded on that basis; that if two men labor diligently for equal periods, each representing the average effort and skill of his class, one on digging post-holes and the other on painting a picture, their reward should be equal. In other words, they say, it would be fair to exchange the picture for the post-holes. I do not subscribe to this doctrine; but there is in it this much of truth—that the worth of work to the man's own character must be measured by effort; the moral credit that is due a worker must depend on how diligently and faithfully he performs his task, and this is true no matter whether the task be menial or skilled, whether the ability of the laborer be small or great. We all remember George Herbert's verse about sweeping a room. But when we come to the material rewards bestowed on the worker by society, we shall find that they are distributed on a very different basis. Society properly asks, not how hard and faithfully the worker has labored, but what the results that he has achieved are worth to the community. Now valuable results, to be sure, are attained by faithful and diligent labor, but they depend on many other things also—the natural skill of the worker, his training, his temperament, and still more on the character of the work that he is doing. Our socialist friends deny that it is possible for anyone to decide whether or not one kind of work is worth more to the community than another; cooking, they say, and the management of banks are both necessary to the community; one man is a skillful cook but would make a very poor financier; another is a good bank president, but would turn out a sorry breakfast. In what respect does one de-

serve a greater reward than the other, for the same period of equally interested and diligent toil? This is plausible enough; but let us take a different case: A man, we will say, by working three years, discovers a fact or a method that saves ten thousand useful lives annually. Another man, in the same period, and with equal diligence, saws wood. Is there no difference in the value of these two tasks to the community? The value of the first is immeasurable, and there is no doubt that the community could well afford to make the man who performed it a multi-millionaire. That the community does not generally do so is to its discredit. But although it does not often bestow this world's goods in such a case, it does usually reward the worker with world-wide fame. And this brings us to a third kind of reward that may be given by the community to the laborer—the esteem of his fellow-workers and his fellow-citizens at large, either during his life or afterward. Fame, whether contemporary or posthumous, is not at all proportioned to the purely economic value of the services rendered, neither does it depend on the amount of effort expended. The most honored and most prominent citizen of a town, the most eminent statesman in a country, the great men of a nation—its patriots, artists, writers, inventors—are not necessarily persons whose labors have made the land richer and the citizens more prosperous, neither have they done their appointed tasks any more thoroughly and faithfully than many a "rude forefather of the hamlet," who has been quite forgotten. They have, however, achieved what they have done, in a way, and to a degree, that is regarded as reflecting especial credit on themselves and the community, and hence their fame, which may be local, technical, world-wide, or even eternal. When a man who has thus won fame has also done valuable work for the community in a material sense, the community, as has just been noted, may forget this and omit its just material reward while it places the laurel on the brow of the great discoverer or

inventor. As for those whose work for the community has been wholly spiritual or intellectual—great writers, great musicians, great artists—the world has often seemed to hold that they should be rewarded wholly in kind—the immaterial guerdon of fame for the immaterial gifts of literary or artistic beauty, although there have been exceptions.

There are, then, three kinds of reward to which the worker must look: first, his wages, which should be proportioned to the economic value of his work to the community; second, the approval of his own conscience, which he receives when his work, no matter what it is, is done as well as he knows how to do it; third, the regard of his fellows, here, elsewhere and hereafter, which is bestowed for many reasons, but usually for conspicuous excellence, either in some one line of work or in the general field.

How does this all apply in library work? First, as regards salaries. The community should give you what your work is worth to it. It will generally give you what it *thinks* your work is worth. Most of the innumerable cases where this world's goods are unjustly distributed fall, I believe, under two heads: cases where the community allows itself to be overreached or to be robbed outright, and cases where the community does not correctly estimate the value of services. If librarians are not getting as much money as they ought for their work, it is doubtless for this latter reason. And as public librarians are usually paid directly by the community or its representatives, a general belief that they are underpaid will bring about an increase much more quickly than in occupations where the connection is less direct. It should be remembered, however, that the community, like the individual, estimates values on a higher scale, as the thing valued becomes rarer. Thus we have the law of supply and demand. Your work, as librarians, to this community, other things being equal, depends on whether some other community also desires your services. Again, the community's estimate of a man's

worth is rarely higher than his own estimate. If he is willing to work for one-half or one-third of what he is worth, the community accepts him as a bargain and says nothing further. Still again, the community is very apt to think in averages. If a group of people which it classes together, rightly or wrongly, are doing the same kind of work, it is very apt to pay them alike, or at all events to depart less from the average in individual instances than it would otherwise do.

Perhaps we are now ready to touch upon a question that affects librarians more nearly than workers in most other fields, namely, why are the salaries of women less than those of men?

In the first place it must be acknowledged that women, on the average, are physically less strong than men and that most work, whether manual labor or brain work, is ultimately based on physical strength. This does not mean that a particular woman may not be stronger than a particular man, or that although weaker she may not be just as well qualified for a particular kind of work. But, as I have said, society thinks in averages, and if women as a body are less able physically to stand the strain of work in general, they will, as a body, receive smaller recompense. This physical weakness of the average woman forces itself on the attention of all who have observed her work. Although women are peculiarly fitted for librarianship, the number of those who give way, either temporarily or permanently, under its strain is large enough to be a cause of embarrassment to chief librarians. This has been noticeably the case in New York, where for several years physicians' certificates of ability to do continuous work have been required from candidates for admission to the staff. No one not in robust health should enter upon a library career. It is also true, however, that the value of woman's work has been long underrated by the community. It was so long regarded as unusual, if not unbecoming, for a woman to earn her own living, that the wholly unwarranted assumption was made that this was due

in some way to inferiority. As the community realizes its mistake, the salaries of women will doubtless rise somewhat. This general conception of the inherent necessity of a lower rate of compensation for women's work, quite apart from her physical weakness, has, however, been greatly strengthened by the attitude of woman herself. She has systematically put a low value on her own services. This has largely been due to the fact that many women who work do not depend on their salaries for their daily bread. They live at home, and what they earn goes for clothing and extras. This being the case, they can afford to work for less than persons not so supported, the difference being the average value of board and lodging; and they do so work, with the result that the average salaries of all women are lower than they would otherwise be. It is greatly to be desired that the compensation paid for labor, whether done by men or by women, should not be affected by considerations of this kind, but there is a vague impression that they should be recognized, and as long as women aid this impression by accepting less than their work is worth, merely because they can get along with it, they will as a class receive smaller salaries than justice would require. We must now further consider the law of supply and demand. In the lower grades of library work the number of available women is much larger than that of men. There is a wide impression among those who know nothing of library work—and that it is partly in accordance with the facts is shown by the attitude of those who are familiar with the work—that it is peculiarly fitted for persons of refinement. The result in some parts of the country is a great rush for library positions on the part of young women, some of whom are unfit to take these, or any other, positions. The result of this excess of supply over demand must be to depress salaries in the lower grades. That it does operate in this way, may be seen by comparison with the salaries in upper grades, requiring training and ex-

perience, where in some cases the demand greatly exceeds the supply.

But we must not forget that money reward is not the only recompense that society makes to its workers. Many a man, or woman, with a modest income would not think of exchanging his occupation for another that would "pay better." Like President Taft, he "hasn't time to make money," for he finds that his own interest in his work and his love for it, and the position that it gives him in the community and in the affections of his neighbors, far more than compensate for the smallness of his pecuniary reward. This is the element that I have already spoken of as "fame," but it includes, besides the praise or approval of others, also the approval of the worker himself, based on the extent to which his work appeals to him. I believe that both these considerations combine, in most cases, to make librarianship desirable; in other words, it appears to be both congenial and respected. It is our business to make it more so, but we should not be under the illusion that in so doing we are certain to raise salaries. The most honored members of the community—the physician, the clergyman, the judge, the teacher—are not those who are receiving the largest remuneration for their services. We are fond of reminding the public that our work is educational; so be it—educational work is certainly interesting to the doer and well regarded by the community, but it is not well remunerated. Probably the most revered members of our community are our college presidents. Beside President Eliot of Harvard, or President Angell of Michigan, a mere millionaire sinks into insignificance. We Americans are accused of worshipping money. We are wronged; it is not a man's money that we regard so highly; it is the intellectual ability that has enabled him to gather it, or the good judgment that enables him to use it for the benefit of the community. If the same intellect and the same good judgment have made it possible for him to achieve success in some field where he cannot hope to amass a fortune, we yield



to him equal admiration and equal respect. It is such regard as this that you, as librarians, may hope to win. Can we receive this respect from the community in ever-increasing measures, and still hope that salaries will rise?

In a very interesting book entitled "Impressions of American education," by Sara A. Burstall, head-mistress of the girls' high school in Manchester, England, occurs this passage. It is written of American teachers, but it is true of librarians also:

The last excellence of American education which we should wish to indicate is, we fear, almost impossible to describe; it is a certain difference in the *spirit* of teachers and educators generally. \*\*\* One part of it can be definitely enunciated; the teachers there have the professional confidence that clergy and naval men have in England; they are a service \*\*\* They belong to a profession which is respected and considered as a means of natural defense, like the navy here. Like other Americans they are full of hope and faith; they know that the rising tide of public confidence is with them. The very fact that they are paid much less than other Americans \*\*\* helps to make them a service in a country otherwise given up to money-making.

We may surely forgive that last little slap at our "money-making" proclivities, in view of the clearness and sanity with which the situation is set forth in the rest of the passage. We librarians should shape all our actions and administer our trusts in the light of this knowledge that we constitute a *service*; that our *esprit de corps* belongs to us, as to any picked body of workers who have a right to feel that they are performing a special service to the community. This, as we have seen, must most always be out of proportion to its material rewards. The soldier or the sailor feels that he has peculiarly in his keeping the honor of his country. He hazards his life for her; yet his pay is a mere pittance. It is something of this nature that should animate us—the feeling that the intellectual honor of our country is in our keeping. The post-scholastic education of the community, so far as it is to be obtained from books, is in our hands. This education

goes on ceaselessly; its influences, if they are for evil, or even if they merely tend toward indifference and forgetfulness, may quite obliterate the effects of what we have learned at school or college, but such influences are never to be gained from the public library if it is managed as it ought to be. It should be our aim so to conduct it that no one who comes to us with a desire for knowledge shall go away ungratified, that he who comes without such a desire shall feel it awaken within him, that those who look to us for recreation and entertainment shall receive what they ask in its purest form. Books, if they are the right books, may cause the wicked man to turn from his wickedness and the good man to fix his eyes on a higher level of achievement; they may kindle the fires of enthusiasm in the breast of the indifferentist and stir the materialist into spiritual life. These are powerful tools that are to be put into your hands as librarians. Learn to use them well and their use will be to you, even as to those into whose hands you put them, an education and a blessing.

The most important purchase of the year was that of the famous Albert Schatz collection in Rostock of more than 12,000 (principally opera) librettos, of which about 500 belong to the seventeenth and more than 4000 to the eighteenth century. The comprehensiveness of this collection is astonishing, the presence of such coveted treasures as the *Dafne* and *Euridice* librettos of 1600 appearing to be a matter of course. It is too soon to attempt an adequate description, though the use of the collection is made possible by an excellent catalog compiled by Mr Albert Schatz himself. It has not yet been decided whether the Library of Congress shall publish this catalog, or one based thereon incorporating the several thousand (principally English and American) librettos already in the Library and happily supplementing (for instance, by the Longe collection of minor English dramatists) the Schatz collection. Having become the custodian of a collection of such acknowledged importance to musical historians, the Library of Congress necessarily desires to make the contents of the Schatz collection accessible to scholars as soon as possible and to take up Mr Schatz's labors where age compelled him to rest after 42 years of enthusiastic, patient and expert collecting.—*Report of Library of Congress.*

### The Public Library and the Mechanic\*

Thomas L. Smith, Public library, New Haven, Conn.

It may be well to say at the outset that the word mechanic is used in an inclusive sense, and is intended to apply to all artisans, craftsmen, skilled workmen, wage-earners, or whatsoever else they may be called, whose occupations require manual skill as well as intelligent thought and are affected or influenced by the advances made in applied science. The increase in technical skill that comes from an acquaintance with the most recent developments in useful arts is a valuable asset to any community. The importance of bringing new industries to a town is everywhere recognized; and the competition over the location of a new factory is always keen. The value of technical skill in the workmen, and the possible usefulness of the public library in offering them what may be called a post-graduate course in technology, is less clearly seen. Yet a contractor whose business interests extended over the whole of the country, said some years ago, to Mr S. S. Green, of the Worcester public library, that whenever there arose in his enterprises the need for a piece of work that presented unusual difficulties he sent to Worcester, if possible, to have it done; not alone because of the skill of the artificers there, but because of the help that they could get, in case of doubt, from the public library.

Through such information as to modern machinery and methods and labor-saving devices as the public library affords, local builders may be able to secure contracts for construction or other work, to the advantage of the community, which profits through the employment of local capital and energy and through the increased earnings and greater thrift of the skilled mechanics who are thus attracted to the town.

The work of the public library in as-

sisting in the education of pupils in the high schools is commendable enough, especially from the teachers' point of view; but it must not be forgotten that the library also and equally owes a share of its educational functions to those who have gone directly from the grammar school to the work-bench. Whether or not it is better for a high school boy to have read the *Wreck of the Hesperus*, than to have learned to spell,—better for him to know about the Hanging gardens of Babylon than about the practical application of English syntax to everyday speech,—it certainly is true that putting into the hands of the wage-earner books that will enable him to rise in his calling or to take up a more advanced or congenial or better-paid one, is not the least important among library services. And the librarians who number among their acquaintances, men who have qualified themselves for higher positions through sympathetic direction and intelligent use of the library's resources, may well feel that they have done good work.

It is not to be forgotten, in considering the relation of the library to the workingman, that provision for his needs ought to be made as a matter of right and not of favor. The mechanic is justified in demanding that the public library provide for him in as full measure as for persons of any other class. It is the duty of the library to see that the artisans of the community have access to such literature as will enable them to be posted on new methods and tools and to keep abreast of the progress of their trades; that the apprentices be able to complete and round out their technical training; and that manufacturers and employers can be in touch with the most recent labor-saving devices and methods.

The literature through which these results may be brought about consists of standard books on the trades and crafts, sound trade journals, recent scientific treatises, manufacturers' trade lists. How is one to determine what books are "standard"? It should be

\*Read before the Connecticut library association, Oct. 27, 1909.



easy to have the evaluation of such books done by interested mechanics; and suggestions for purchase would probably be made by them also. But it would be better, as a general thing, to select for purchase from the publishers' lists, as books named in their catalogs are more likely to deal with the latest developments and most recent advances in technology. Van Nostrand and other publishers issue lists of important and valuable works on the mechanic arts; and quite possibly they would be willing to send books on approval. Lists of books that have proved useful in the libraries of similar communities are easily procurable and of great value. They should be carefully scrutinized, however, with a view to the rejection of everything that is out-of-date. The catalogs of those libraries that cater to large manufacturing and industrial populations are especially worthy of consideration. Another excellent aid in selection of books is the monthly periodical *TECHNICAL LITERATURE*, which prints important reviews of recent books as well as valuable special articles.

It is said that workingmen are hard to reach—that they are disinclined to ask help of women, who, obviously, make up the great majority of library workers. In view, however, of the fact that a wise and kind Providence has especially designed woman for the overcoming of masculine stupidity and indifference, this objection loses much of its force. Whatever feeling may exist is due, doubtless, to the supposition—which is probably correct—that a woman of the librarian's training knows little or nothing about books on the mechanic arts. This is an objection that she can and should obviate. There is no reason why she should not be as familiar with the technical literature on her shelves as with any other of her volumes. The smaller the number of books the greater the need of thorough acquaintance with them; but, fortunately, the smaller the number the more easily that acquaintance can be made.

And when she has once demonstrated her familiarity with the books that will satisfy the wage-earners' needs her power for good in her community will be immeasurably increased. If the librarian cannot give the time and attention necessary to familiarize herself with the literature of the useful arts, and the library cannot afford a special assistant, it might be possible to enlist the services of one of the local mechanics, who, voluntarily or for slight compensation, would devote some of his evening hours to the assistance of his fellow workmen. In this way two things would be accomplished—the work of the library in this field would be done more efficiently, and the library itself would get some valuable advertising. The cost, if any, should not be greater than for a "story hour"; and the benefits must be incomparably greater.

In library work with the mechanic it is very important that each inquirer get the right book. If one that does not answer his need be given him, or one that is too difficult, he is not so likely to try again. And if one that sets forth an obsolete method of doing a thing, or that fails to describe what he knows to be the best way, be chosen for him, his opinion of the library's usefulness will not be high. Out-of-date technical books are worse than useless—they may do harm not only through misinformation, but through arousing distrust of the library's resources. It has been suggested that several duplicate copies of a simple book are better than a like number of single copies of more advanced ones, because the beginner may not return to the library if he be disappointed when he first applies for a book. On the other hand it may be better to provide advanced material for those who would profit by its use than to sacrifice them to the beginner's whim. Both ideas are worthy of consideration. The difficulty of giving to the workingman the book exactly suited to his needs, is often more apparent than real, however, especially if your

stock be carefully chosen. An indefinite request for something on plumbing, or concrete work, or automobiles, could be completely satisfied, generally, by giving the inquirer any recent book on the subject named; and the more specific requests generally come from those who can find what they want in any good book dealing with their specialty. If a wood finisher wants a formula for treating a certain rare hardwood, or a carpenter needs design and measurements for a difficult bit of handrailing, or a machinist is looking up bevel gears, it will be sufficient to produce a book on hardwood finishing or carpentry or gearing, and the inquirer will get what he wants from it without further trouble. It will rarely be necessary to point out chapter and page. You will find him a great deal easier to wait on than the clubwoman who is preparing a paper on Egyptian antiquities that will be more learned than Flinders Petrie and more readable than Miss Edwards. And the library—perhaps even the librarian—will have made another friend.

Every public library, however small, should have at least one good book on each of the common and important trades—carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing, etc.; and one on each of the local manufacturing industries, whatsoever they may be. This is not too much for the workingman to expect; and it is not too much of a drain on the resources of even the smallest library. In most industrial communities much more than this can and should be done. The New England libraries have materially advanced the general culture of the people whom they have served, and their stocks of books are in most cases quite adequate for that purpose. It is high time that they devoted some of their means and some of their energy to advancing the interests of the producing classes so-called. To have the mechanic—the housepainter, machinist, metal founder,—realize that there are books in the public library that will help him out on some doubtful point in his work; to have him know that he can get books

from you in which he can study the higher or the collateral branches of his trade—mechanical drawing, architecture, chemistry, mechanics,—is to start many a man and boy on the road to technical improvement and industrial success. What the much-advertised correspondence schools are doing any library can do. If the community be small and the industries few the books also may be few. In the towns with more varied industries the population, and consequently the financial resources of the library, will also be larger, although the number of books required be no greater proportionately. The more the library is used by the artisans, the easier it will be to secure adequate, or nearly adequate, appropriations for its support. It is quite true that there are better reasons than financial expediency for catering to the workingman; but this is a sordid world; and while all librarians are altruists (if they weren't they'd be working at something else) the suggestion of possibly increased funds may be not without weight.

The most important trade journal of each industry in the community should also be part of the library's equipment; and these journals should be circulated as books as soon as the later issues have been received. Probably most reading-rooms have the *Scientific American* publications; they should have *Technical Literature* and *Popular Mechanics* as well. And such periodicals as *American Machinist*, *Engineering News*, *Inland Printer*, *Blacksmith* and *Wheelwright*, *Electrician* and *Mechanic*, *Motor Boat*, *Automobile*, or such others as are applicable to local needs, will prove worth their cost not only for the information they afford, but also because they will bring to the library readers whom the lure of books alone would not attract.

Much importance is attached to manufacturers' and trade catalogs, as frequently containing the first information allowed to reach the public regarding a new machine or improvement or a better pattern of tool. These catalogs are generally to be had free of

cost; and while it is suggested that they are troublesome to keep in order it is likely that the comparatively small number required by a library that only covers the field of local industries would not give much trouble, especially if only the latest issues were retained. In any case they are worth all the trouble they may cause. In libraries in the rural communities much use may be made of the *Farmers' Buleltins* published by the department of agriculture, which may be had for the asking. They cover a wide range of topics interesting to the farmer and the rural housewife, and they are adequately indexed.

"If we can provide educational books in no other way let us retrench on our fiction," says Mr Bailey of Wilmington, Del., "even if we have to report a loss of circulation at the end of the year. A good book on electrical or mechanical engineering, costing four dollars, read by 18 men in a year, is of greater value to the community than four copies of the latest 'best seller' in the hands of 150 readers"; or, I may add, than four dollars' worth of denatured editions of Robinson Crusoe or David Copperfield foisted on any number of defenseless children.

If the younger men are interested much is accomplished, although the older ones be not reached; and the library is not to blame if it cannot, after due preparation and effort, induce the workmen to use its material. But it is bound to use due effort and means; and one of these is advertising, which is as necessary to the public library as to any other institution or establishment dependent on popular favor. Among the advertising mediums commonly suggested are the local newspapers, the labor journals, placards in work-rooms, communications to be read at the meetings of trade unions calling attention to the library facilities, printed slips to be placed in pay envelopes or wrapped up in department store parcels or inserted in all books charged at the library. Each of these means has its advantages, of expediency or of dig-

nity, and probably each of them will result in attracting the attention of someone who would not be reached otherwise. Some of them have been objected to as being undignified, as patterning too closely after the approved methods of recommending a headache powder or a new breakfast food; but if it be—as it is—the library's duty to acquaint everyone in the vicinity with its possibilities for usefulness, it cannot justly be blamed for employing any device that other advertisers have used successfully. In this case, at least, "the end justifies the means."

In the smaller libraries, where borrowers are personally known to the librarian, printed or hectographed lists of technical and scientific books could be given to them with the request that they be handed to the men of the family; in the larger institutions such lists could be placed in all books charged to children, with a similar request. If some or all these methods were employed it would not be long before the workmen had it impressed upon them that the public library is not merely, as one of them suggested to me, "a place for the women-folks to get trashy novels," but a live educational force, useful—in time, indispensable—to every man in the community.

A discussion of the relations that ought to obtain between the library and the mechanic should not omit some reference to the "useful arts rooms" of some of the larger libraries. These rooms, devoted entirely to books on the useful arts and the allied fine arts, together with such scientific treatises and related works as are especially useful to artisans, and provided with drawing instruments, tracing paper, photographic dark room, and similar conveniences, all under the direction of assistants trained in the literature of technology, are the ideal solution of the problem of work with the mechanic. Few of us can do all that is done by these larger institutions, even on a smaller scale; some of us, perhaps, cannot do any of it; but all of our libraries can make

some sort of special effort to attract the mechanics to our reading rooms; to make the time spent there pleasant and profitable, and to convince them that we are glad to have them come; and that they need not be "dressed up"; to set before their eyes books that by their very titles and subject matter will at once arouse interest; to make it very evident to them that we consider their needs and interests of equal importance with those of anyone else. And by work of this kind we will best answer the question, "What can the library do for the mechanic?"

### **The Public Library Service to Mechanics**

Trenton, N. J.

If we try to analyze the causes that brought forth the modern public library and determined its policy we find that this institution is one of the many manifestations of the principles laid down by our forefathers, that the education and the means and tools of education shall be within the reach of all classes of citizens. Books are such tools, at least for self-education, and the average municipality or commonwealth has deemed it good policy to furnish books free to whomsoever may apply. The activities of the library reach out to all classes of society, irrespective of age, creed and social standing. The library is at the service of all and tries to serve each individual according to his needs.

If viewed from this angle it may be of some interest and serve a practical purpose to inquire what the public library is doing for the mechanic.

It was the good fortune of the Trenton library to receive at the very beginning of its career an endowment fund, the expenditure of which is, according to the directions of the donor, the late Dr Skelton, to be devoted to the purchase of books on science, industrial and fine arts. The trustees were from the first keenly alive to the importance and possibilities in carrying out the desires of the donor, and the collection of

books on mechanics, engineering and general arts, that may be found in the Public library, is one of the most gratifying features of the general collection. The selection of these books has been made in large part by experts or from carefully prepared lists.

The book committee has tried to steer clear of the "Engineering made easy" class of books, the scientific nostrum launched by certain publishing houses. Sound, clear books of elementary character suitable for beginners have not been omitted, and more advanced works of technical nature, recording the last findings in the world of science and manufacture, have also been purchased. Books of science are generally very expensive and the maintenance of a collection of scientific books is financially perplexing as new editions are constantly forthcoming and indispensable if a library is to give efficient service. New inventions and the conquests by human ingenuity make the request for the "latest" in science as seriously felt in a library as the clamor for the latest novel.

Every library is subject to local conditions, and this applies particularly to the guiding principles in building up a collection of books on applied and fine arts. The book committee has given special attention to the interests of local industries, the steadily growing factors in the development of our city. Whatever valuable printed information in the field of metallurgy, ceramics, rubber manufacture and machinery, etc., has come under the eyes of the book committee, has been purchased, be it an elementary working manual or a highly technical treatise. Suggestions for new books have been invited and received, notices of new books have been mailed to those most likely to be interested in the subject matter treated, special lists have been prepared and forwarded to trades unions or published in the local press. In fact, the very first printed catalog of the Trenton library was limited to the subjects of science, fine and Industrial Arts. If an inquiry is received relative to a subject on which

the library has little or inadequate literature, efforts are instantly made to purchase or borrow suitable material and notice of receipt forwarded to interested party. The library has a full set of textbooks issued by the well-known correspondence schools in Scranton, Pa., and Armour institute.

The loan of such books as may interest mechanics in their work is unrestricted as to the number that may be borrowed at one time, and may be retained from two to six weeks as agreed upon.

The library subscribes for half a hundred scientific magazines and trade journals, ranging from the technical proceedings of scientific or engineering societies to the popular weeklies issued in the interests of various trades. These magazines are all placed on file in a corner case of the reading room, reserved for the purpose, and enjoy a gratifying patronage.

The "applied science" room, where all books and journals pertaining to industrial and fine arts, are displayed, easy of access and consultation, is nowadays one of the most valuable departments in the best organized libraries in the country. This new educational feature has in many instances met with appreciation not only from the mechanics themselves but with commendation and financial support from manufacturers who were quick to recognize the economic value resulting from the increased efficiency of their employees.

Not only books and journals, but charts, mechanical drawings, models and draftsmen's tables are furnished in these "applied science" departments with trained, capable attendants in charge.

The largest library in the world, which is the Bibliothèque Nationale, at Paris, contains three million volumes. The next largest library is in the British Museum, where reposing on musty shelves are two million books. The Imperial library at St. Petersburg contains a million and a half volumes.

### Maps and Atlases—Their Selection and Care\*

Sarah B. Ball

Business men's branch, Newark (N. J.)  
free public library

My partiality for maps goes back to a fascinating picture-puzzle map of the United States. It proved a fine teacher in disguise as well as a source of much pleasure; and when the maps in the Newark public library fell to my lot, I seemed to be simply going back to old friends.

Today, however, the care and handling of maps interests me quite as much as the maps themselves. A few large libraries—notably that of the American Geographical society of New York, and the Library of Congress—have gone into this subject thoroughly; and if cost does not need to be considered, one can hardly do better than copy the methods employed by either of these libraries. The Library of Congress system requires the dissecting and remounting of all maps above a certain size and the construction of specially designed map cases containing many shallow drawers. The expense involved in such a system makes it almost prohibitive for the ordinary library.

Yet all libraries have maps. Are they being used, or are they simply laid away, waiting for the time, which never comes to the ordinary library, when money can be spared to store and catalog them in a thoroughly scientific manner? We could not wait for that time in Newark. Many maps were needed at our Business Men's branch, located in the business district of Newark, half a mile from the main library. About 40 maps were placed at this branch, and as they were to be used primarily by the hurried business man, it was necessary to devise a method of keeping them which would permit them to be quickly and easily consulted. The following plan was adopted:

\*A paper and list prepared for the first annual meeting of the Special libraries association, New York, Nov. 5, 1909.



The library carpenter made a shelf of matched, inch-thick, white pine, nine feet long and five feet wide. This shelf was fastened by overhead brackets at right angles to the side wall, and eight feet from the floor. Three feet of the white curtain cloth called Holland was stitched to the top of each map, all unmounted maps having first been mounted. Hartshorne automatic tin shade rollers of four different lengths, three feet, four feet, six feet and nine feet, were placed close together on the under side of the map shelf on ordinary roller brackets. To these rollers the maps were attached, each map to a roller of proper length, at the end of the Holland extension. Although the shelf is eight feet from the floor, the Holland extension permits the top of any map to be drawn down to the level of the eye.

When a map is not in use it is rolled up out of the way just as a window shade is raised. A stick is fastened along the bottom of each map. From this hangs a brass chain about a foot long. At the end of the chain is a large white-wood label with the name of the map clearly printed on it in large black letters, and shellacked.

Forty maps, four of which are nine feet wide, are cared for in this way on the nine feet by five feet shelf. Others are attached to rollers of proper length and kept in a rack nearby, ready to be slipped into place on the under side of the shelf as needed.

Any library wishing to make readily accessible such of its maps as are often wanted, may find something of interest in this plan. The constant use that has been made of the maps at the Business Men's branch shows how much depends on a convenient arrangement. The cost of such a collection is small in comparison with the usual map case of many shallow drawers, or with the clumsy roller combinations of the dealers.

The itemized cost is as follows:

Map shelf, 9x5 feet, \$30.

Holland extensions, 3 cents or 4 cents

for each square foot of material required.

Cost of automatic tin shade rollers, 4 feet and under, 35 cents; 9 feet, about 80 cents.

Brass chains, 3 cents per foot.

Wooden labels, about 5 cents each.

At the main library there is at present no suitable place for such a map shelf as I have described and another method of handling maps is used. This is simple and quite satisfactory when wall space cannot be spared, and the expense is so small as to be hardly worth considering. In this method, each map is cataloged and given an accession number followed by the date of publication. It is rolled up and tied with tape, the accession number being clearly marked on the outside in the middle. All are arranged on shelves by accession numbers, and when one is wanted the catalog is consulted, the number found, and a page is sent to the stack for it. When brought to the reference room it is thrown over a large screen and consulted in that position. Very long shelving with no partitions or uprights is needed when arranging maps by this method. To secure this in some libraries might be something of a problem. We overcame the difficulty by turning the shelves in our metal stacks up-side-down, thus giving an uninterrupted shelf 12 feet long. A piece of unbleached muslin is tacked to the back of each shelf, brought over it, and allowed to hang down a little in front, thus preventing the collection of dust—an important factor, as all who have handled maps in a large city will surely agree.

I can hear map experts severely criticizing these two methods of handling maps. It has been unanimously decided by them that no map should be kept rolled; all should be laid flat. And they are right as far as the life of the maps is concerned. But the question is, shall the ordinary public library keep its maps unused for years, waiting until it can afford to care for them scientifically; or shall it adopt a simple, inex-

pensive plan and have the maps accessible for daily use, and used? What a rare pleasure it would be to go to a library and find maps actually worn out instead of rotting out or lying with the dust of years upon them, as is usually the case! That maps are seldom asked for is largely the fault of the library, not of the people. Let libraries make maps accessible and they will find them something more than dust traps. The librarian who cannot produce at least a dozen well-used maps has as much cause to blush as the librarian who cannot produce modern reference books.

But the problem of the care of maps is not completely solved when important and valuable maps have been made accessible. There still remains the care of the maps that are not worth mounting, the maps that accumulate in every library and are of temporary interest only, or of so little commercial value that one is tempted to let them take care of themselves or else throw them away.

Three things have to be considered in caring for these maps: Economy, a convenient arrangement, and the protection of the maps from wear and tear. Unmounted maps should be laid flat, with as few folds as possible, for each fold is but the beginning of a tear. A simple and inexpensive method is to group the maps into several large classes, such as local maps, state maps, city maps, United States, Europe and so on, and keep them in large portfolios. Portfolios 28x33 inches can be made for 60 cents and will hold at least 50 maps each. These maps are hardly worth cataloging separately in the ordinary library; but reference cards for each portfolio under rather general headings will be useful in suggesting a further source of map material. Although this method is somewhat crude and not altogether satisfactory, it keeps the maps in some order and is very inexpensive. Any library can afford to do at least this much with maps, and it is better to do this than to neglect them.

About the selection of maps. It seems an obvious fact, and yet I have found so many ignorant of it that to repeat it here is not out of place, that outside of the publications of federal and state governments, this country has yet produced no map publisher of whom it can really be proud. It is well to be skeptical of American publications, as to fullness, accuracy, and general make-up. Foreign maps are invariably superior. If American librarians were to show more interest in the English and continental map publishers, they could help to secure better productions from American publishers. In many cases, also, foreign maps are cheaper. In order to profit fully from this fact it is wise to order all foreign material from a reliable importing house, such as Lemcke & Büchner, Baker & Taylor, or G. E. Stechert & Co., and not from the publishers or their American agents. Through some jugglery the tariff is often added by these latter to the price of the maps, while the importing houses supply them duty free, according to law, to institutions of learning.

The lack of interest among librarians in the subject of maps is shown by the fact that for six years past the library periodicals have had nothing to say on the subject, and neither journal has ever published suggestions for the care of a small collection. Every article on the subject of maps deals with the well-equipped map room of a large library. Has the subject been settled satisfactorily to all concerned? Has every library even a good supply of local maps?

The following list of some of the maps and atlases in use at the Business Men's branch is given, not because I think it a list to be recommended for all libraries or an ideal list for our Business Men's branch, but because I think it may offer certain helpful suggestions to those who have not looked into the subject. Unless otherwise specified the price is for unmounted maps.

**United States.**

Issued by the U. S. General Land Office. 1907. Size, 83x60 in. Free to public libraries. Price to individuals, \$1, mounted. Shows the expansion of the United States, the reservations, island possessions, Alaska, etc. This map is superior to the publications of commercial houses.

**Newark interurban map.\***

A map, 9x8 ft., made up of 12 sheets of the New Series Topographic Atlas, published by the Geological Survey of New Jersey. It is on a scale of 2000 feet to an inch and gives the names of the principal streets and roads of 1100 square miles, with Newark as the center.

A library wishing the best map of any American locality that has been covered by federal or state surveys should take the sheets which together cover that locality, combine and mount them as a single map. In the same way the best state or local atlas obtainable can be made by collecting these sheets and either binding them together, or keeping them loose in a portfolio. If the federal survey sheets are used they should be arranged alphabetically by the names of the sheets to make them useful through the indexes by Henry Gannett, which have been published by the U. S. Geological Survey for several states and may be obtained at a slight cost.

**Poste route map of New Jersey.**

Published by the U. S. Postoffice department. 1906. Size, 33x45 in. Price 80c. A very clear and legible map, giving all the railroads, cities and villages, and indicating the class of postal service throughout the state. Just such maps have been issued for all the states in the Union and they are superior in general workmanship, more accurate and much cheaper than the state maps of commercial houses.

**Road map of New Jersey.**

In annual report of State Road Commissioner. 1908. Size, 27x36 in. Free. Frequently the best local map material covering a wide range of subjects is buried in neglected and forbidding state and federal reports. It is often worth while to get extra copies of reports, extract the maps and have them mounted. Left folded in the reports the folding and unfolding soon tears them.

**Transportation routes of the world.**

Published by the U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor. 1909. Size, 57x32 in. Free. Gives distances between important seaports, the railroads of the world, and useful statistical information.

\*A number of maps relating to local affairs of New Jersey and Newark, such as sewerage districts, forests, watersheds, political districts, railroads and trolley lines, etc., are here omitted from Miss Ball's list. An inquiry for them will be answered.—Editor of Public Libraries.

**Panama canal.**

Published by U. S. Isthmian Canal Commission. 1907. Size, 51x27 in. Free.

**Shippers' map.**

Covers the territory from New York to Chicago and from Saginaw, Mich., to Richmond, Va. Published by Rand-McNally. 1908. Two maps, each 67x54 in. Any section of the United States may be bought. The price, mounted, varies from \$1.15 per foot for sections of five square feet to 60c per foot for sections of 35 square feet or more. The scale is eight miles to an inch. The railroads are clearly marked in different colors.

**Coast and geodetic survey charts.**

New York Bay and Harbor. Size, 41x49 in. Price 75c; New York Harbor Approaches. Size, 41x32 in. Price, 50c; and the Passaic River from Newark Bay to Belleville. Size, 23x38 in. Price, 25c. Many libraries will find the local charts of considerable value in giving detailed information of the coast and shore lines and the river banks. As the charts are issued frequently and are printed on tough paper, mounting is unnecessary.

**State maps issued by the U. S. General Land Office.**

Different sizes and scales. Price, 10c each. For western states these maps are very valuable.

**Newark.**

Published by Interstate Map Company of Newark. 1909. Size, 123x102 in. Price, \$1.00, mounted. A very clear, uncolored map.

**Industrial map of Newark.**

Based on a map published by the Interstate Map Company of Newark. 1909. Size, 39x38 in. Price, \$1.00. All the factories employing over 100 hands are indicated by black dots and those employing 50 to 100 by red dots. The marking of the map was done in the library. It was prepared to show the location of the factories of Newark in relation to the Passaic river and the proposed ship canal. Interesting studies of city activities or topics of current interest such as the park system, the trolley system, the schools and library distributing centers, the places of historic interest, and many other subjects can be made with very little difficulty in many libraries and newspapers will be glad to reproduce them.

**Greater New York.**

Published by Hammond. 1902. Size, 64x78 in. Price, \$10.00, mounted.

**Atlases****Rand-McNally's atlas of the world.**

Published by Rand-McNally & Co., Chicago. 1908. 2 vols. Price, \$25.00. To increase the use of the government publications each map



in the United States section of the atlas was stamped, "For maps on larger scale ask to see U. S. Geological Survey."

**Phillip's mercantile marine atlas.**

Specially designed for merchant shippers and exporters. Published by Geo. Phillip & Son, London. 1908. Price, £3.3s. Gives distances between ports, length of time for steamers carrying mail, British and United States consulates and plans of the harbors of the world.

**Bartholomew's atlas of the world's commerce.**

Published by Velhagen & Klasing, Bielefeld. Shows the products, imports, exports, commercial conditions and economic statistics of the countries of the world.

**Andree's Allgeneiner hand-atlas.**

Published by Velhagen & Klasing, Bielefeld. 1906. Price 28m. More accurate for foreign countries than American publications.

## The California County Library Law

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The pages of PUBLIC LIBRARIES have recently contained notices of the new county library act in California. This act, as I need not say, looks toward centralization and coöperation for the libraries of the state. We Californians believe in coöperation. It is one of the ways by which we have built up our state. The work of the State library during recent years has been a wonderful aid to the local libraries.

But some of us think we have in this new act the drama of the Young Lady of Niger, with our local funds enacting the part of the lady, and with the political machine cast for the part of the tiger. Since most notices that have reached the East have been favorable, you may be interested to know what is said on the other side. I would especially call your attention to the action of the meeting of the sixth district of the California library association at Hollywood, November 12.

At this meeting of the Southern California library association at Hollywood, much opposition to the new county law developed among the delegates representing the cities in which libraries now exist. Judge Owens of

Whittier pointed out that the law would ultimately compel all existing city libraries to turn over their books to the county system, that it would destroy the individuality of the present libraries and might put the libraries of the state in the spoils of partisan politics.

A city library may at any time be placed under the control of the county supervisors by action of the city trustees without any expression on the part of the voters. The regulations governing elections to establish the system in a county are very lax. No general register is used and but three printed notices are to be posted in the entire county. No newspaper advertising of the election is provided. The two-thirds vote necessary to abolish such a system would be impossible to secure in Los Angeles county.

A resolution was adopted commending the state librarian for his effort to devise a law that would give the country districts of the state, library facilities and pledging him their support when he shall have succeeded in having such a law adopted. A resolution was adopted which condemned the objectionable features of the new law and urged that it be not put into effect until properly amended.

S. M. JACOBUS, Librarian.  
Nov. 22, 1909, Pomona, Cal.

A university student sent the following to the university periodical:

Some time ago additional chairs were provided in the library, but still a large number of students are forced to stand. Would it not be a good plan—one which would increase the capacity of the room and add a little to the comfort of students—to provide straps for support, as in the street cars of cities? If the university cares to be liberal it might provide two straps and loops for each individual. With a loop under each armpit the student would be allowed the use of both hands, and might pursue his studies fairly comfortably.

A STANDING STUDENT.

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	35 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post-office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1879.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

Please note specially that the subscription price is \$2 a year, payable in advance. Thirty-five cents a single copy. Additional charge for foreign postage, 25 cents a year.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

**A look backward**—The year 1909 in library circles in America has been full of important events, if not of momentous occasions.

The turning of a new page in the proceedings of the American library association, occasioned by the removal of the headquarters' office to Chicago, is worthy of special note. It marks the beginning, it is hoped, of a broader comprehension of library activities as educational movements, on the part not only of the community to which the headquarters' office has come, but also in those parts of the land which have been credited heretofore as being in the lead in library matters. The present condition is good for everybody concerned, since a realization of the obligations to be met in the locality of headquarters, in sustaining expectations, is a profitable condition, while a realization of the fact that other places are active in good work will not be a bad

thing for those localities where such ideas may not exist.

The library activity displayed in practical, progressive lines among the Canadian libraries should furnish stimulus to other sections represented in the American library association that are somewhat lagging behind in practical work. The help given by the Government to the Ontario library movement is worthy of emulation by many State governments, which are too often indifferent or unintelligent in what they do along these lines. The development of the Public library situation in Toronto deserves particular mention as the fulfillment of delayed plans and purposes of many years. Under the vigorous administration of Mr Locke, the public library service of Toronto continues to grow worthy of special notice in the discussions of book distribution.

The retirement of Mr S. S. Greene, of Worcester, Mass., from active library service after so many years of valuable work, calls for renewed recognition of his contributions to library development, particularly along lines of coöperation of schools and libraries.

The final settlement of the question of free importation of books for public libraries was another event deserving of notice and calls for recognition of the services of those most concerned. It is to be hoped it will not be necessary, ever again, to use so much attention and hard work to protect the rights of the public against the demands of a few.

The pending proposition to eliminate the Library department of the National Education association, if accomplished, will be an unfortunate thing. It represents nothing more than unwise suggestions on the part of uninformed peo-

ple. A N. E. A. committee was appointed in 1901 to consider consolidation of departments. Its very existence had been forgotten by even the officers, when it brought in its report which, in as far as it related to subjects with which members of the committee were familiar, contained some really wise suggestions. There was, however, no one on the committee interested in the library department or familiar with its history, consequently its proposed elimination means nothing more than lack of information. Those interested in the department and specially those familiar with its work from the first, are firmly convinced that elimination of the library department would be a mistake. A co-operative interest, shown on the part of librarians toward the protest which members of the National Education association will make at the next meeting of that body, ought to result in a satisfactory outcome.

The formation of a Special Libraries association raises a question as to its desirability or necessity. Special libraries have no problems which could not be met in the discussions of the A. L. A. They differ from ordinary libraries only in serving a limited clientele. A separate association has opened the question whether their work will not suffer a greater loss in missing the wider vision which special librarians should gain at the meetings of the American library association, than it will gain from a separate meeting apart from the interests of the A. L. A. A review of the program of the first meeting shows nothing that has not a legitimate place on the program of the national library association.

The most of the efforts made to secure state supervision of library exten-

sion in various parts of the country have been crowned with success. Only a few states are now in the black belt, as shown by the little map which announces that "the white states aid their libraries."

An important movement is that by which the national association sends its representatives into the less vigorous association meetings in different parts of the country to bring help and inspiration and information that will assist the faithful few who are struggling under great difficulties to provide "the best reading for the greatest number at the least cost." The efforts this year have been specially satisfactory.

In Illinois the present results of a dozen years of hard work to secure state supervision of library extension are matters of special satisfaction. The year 1909 furnishes occasion for special rejoicing on the part of the library force in Illinois. With the incoming of a number of good, strong librarians, a beginning in state supervision, the location of A. L. A. headquarters and the renewed inspiration that comes from all these things, the library outlook in the state is full of encouragement.

The difficult problem that arose early in 1909 in the Public library situation in Chicago and the extremely satisfactory solution of it, obtained later in the appointment of Henry E. Legler, is of more than local interest. The report of a committee of national character and extent furnishes a source of information and help, not alone for the Public library of Chicago. The discussion in that report of wise measures of library administration is valuable for any library, and Chicago is not alone in her need of careful consideration of the

problems with which the committee's report deals. A number of public libraries, by taking heed to much that is set forth in the committee's report, would more largely justify their expenditure of the public money by giving more satisfactory and sympathetic service to that public.

Death has been no kinder toward the library membership than in former years. Nearly a score of A. L. A. members have been gathered to their last rest. Among them were Dr Daniel Coit Gilman, Edward Everett Hale and Charles W. Jencks, three honorary members, and State Librarian Tillinghast of Massachusetts, a life member, who bore the accession number 368.

The death of Dr J. H. Canfield removed from the councils of the A. L. A. one whose place will remain vacant for many long days to come, and deprives the library associations and personal friends in the work, of a source of helpfulness and strength that is keenly felt.

The recent death of Miss Kroeger removed another, whose contributions to library literature form a source of great helpfulness, and of whom it can be truly said that she will be long remembered by what she has done.

The presentation by Charles K. Bolton of Boston Athenæum, of an outline for a development of a code of library ethics, deserves more than passing notice, and it is to be hoped that what Mr Bolton has so well set forth, may later be developed and enlarged to the advantage of all concerned.

The year 1910 opens with fair prospects within large scope of usefulness, with serious problems to be met and solved and with an opportunity for a broader outlook, a deeper sympathy and

a more effective professional development than has yet appeared.

**A. L. A. activity**—President Hodges has extended a call for a meeting of the council of the American library association to be held in Chicago the first week in January. This act is in accordance with the A. L. A. constitution adopted at Bretton Woods last summer, over which there was the most animated discussion from first to last. It is scarcely conceivable that the discussion of some parts of that constitution has been finished, but that is another story.

The Executive board, Publishing board and the College and University sections will hold meetings during the same week. The League of commissions will also hold its regular mid-winter meeting at that time. This seems to indicate that the bringing of headquarters to Chicago has increased library activity, so far as mid-winter meetings are concerned, at least, and one can but devoutly hope that the scriptural proverb, "In the multitude of councillors there is wisdom," will prove true.

This week of library meetings will be watched with considerable interest. It was announced at Bretton Woods, by one in authority, that his object in urging that section of the revised constitution increasing the number of councillors and relieving the council of the business transactions, was to eventually abolish the American library institute. This plan would seem to have been advanced later by making the membership of the council a duplication of the membership of the American library institute.

Is such action really for the best interests of the A. L. A.? Why should the

council of the A. L. A. concern itself with the I. L. A. at all?

It would seem that a thinking, dignified body, such as the council of the A. L. A., would find sufficient reason for its existence in planning for greater power and place for the American library association. There are a number of other organizations with which plans for coöperation and mutual benefit should be developed, but which have not been approached on the subject. The American league for civic improvement, the Home education association, the National education association, Correspondence trade schools, and others, whose aims and objects ought to be taken into consideration by the libraries and supplemented through the action of the American library association, are all worthy of consideration, and their interest and help might well be sought for the aims of the A. L. A.

It is quite too frequently necessary to explain just what the American library association really is, and it is equally too frequently very hard to enumerate its present activities. The strong plea for more publicity that is often made brings home the fact that there is not a great deal to tell.

Without desiring in the least to pass criticism on the work of the Publishing board, there is considerable ground remaining to be occupied by it, which might well be taken, even if the doing so would necessitate dropping some of the things it has done heretofore. There should be printed matter prepared to show concerted action regarding library principles, something that will give authority in actual library work. There ought to be plans of coöperation suggested to the organizations before mentioned. Good work might

be done by furnishing material to the patent insides of the county newspapers; leaflets giving a simple outline of the study for local library conditions which could be freely used in channels not reached by the regular library publications; a series of articles and short notes for press use throughout the country, with the object of bringing a better understanding of the library and its object to the general public; a wider distribution of the knowledge of the location and character of efficient library machinery throughout the country; a bringing together in correlated endeavor the efforts that are now separately carried on.

These are some of the things neither the A. L. A. nor any other library body is doing, that might well and properly be done by the A. L. A., and which would add to its faith in itself, knowledge, and wisdom also.

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As a bookseller's piece of work, "A catalog of books, 1909-1910," issued by A. C. McClurg & Co., is a praiseworthy publication and the McClurg Company deserves the thanks of book-buyers distant from the centers of the book trade. One of the difficulties of book-buyers in the average medium town is to find out what books are in the market. Surely, if any of these latter have escaped the comprehensive scrutiny which must have been given by those who prepared this volume, they cannot be very important books. The latest literature of every field of human knowledge is included in it and classified under its subject. Series, standards and special lines are included also, with various editions of all kinds of books from world-wide publishers. A title index adds no small part to the value of the catalog. The illustrations are in many cases beautiful. Exquisite coloring and artistic lines represent the work of some of the best known and most popular book illustrators. Librarians particularly should have a copy of the catalog on their desk and should insist that their local dealer keep several copies at hand.



### Special Collections in Libraries in the United States

In response to the call of the Bretton Woods conference for more co-operation and coöperative aids, Bureau of education is planning the early completion of its projected report on special collections in libraries of the United States. The work is being done under the editorial direction of W. Dawson Johnston, of Columbia university, with Isadore G. Mudge as assistant.

The Bureau of education began work on this list in 1908, when, under date of November 2, circulars were sent to librarians of all public, society and school libraries of more than 5000 v., asking for reports of any special collections under their charge. Such libraries as responded at all to this request did so promptly and generously, but these constitute only a small fraction of the 2298 institutions to which circulars were sent. While many of the libraries which failed to report probably possess no special collections, others are known to be particularly rich in such material, and their final coöperation in this work is of the utmost importance.

A second circular will be sent to a selected list of the libraries which did not respond to the first request. With this will be sent an exact statement of the kind of information desired and the form of report preferred. All librarians who receive this circular are urged to report at once upon 1) any collections of books, pamphlets, periodicals and documents in their libraries, provided such collections are of unusual value, either because of completeness in foreign literature or early literature of the subject, or because the works in them are monumental in character or of unusual rarity, 2) collections of interest primarily because of their history and associations, and 3) unique copies of any book.

In general, local history collections

in a public library will be taken for granted, and need be included in the report only when of more than local interest through some part which the locality has played in the national history, or because of some special question of language, literature, or religion.

While reports are asked from all general libraries, the librarians of all law, medical, theological, historical, scientific, technical and other highly specialized libraries are particularly urged to report upon the special features of their collections. Librarians whose records will not allow them to make complete reports at once are asked to send such data as they can furnish, and those who have no special collections in their libraries are asked to report that fact.

The publication is to be a record, by subjects, of all such collections as are of sufficient extent and value to be of service to the serious student. At the Bretton Woods conference repeated emphasis was laid upon the fact that students and investigators must be given more information about special collections on their subjects and must know in what libraries these collections can be found. The great use of such a record of special collections to the investigator and reference librarian is self-evident, but the final value and completeness of the work, and especially the date at which it can be issued, must largely depend upon the extent to which the librarians of the country coöperate with the editor by reporting at once upon their collections.

ISADORE G. MUDGE.

Don't go through life looking for trouble, for faults, for failures, for the crooked, for the ugly, and the deformed. Don't see the distorted man—see the man that God made. Just make up your mind firmly at the very outset in life that you will not criticize or condemn others or find fault with their mistakes and shortcomings.—O. S. Marden.

### Brooklyn Plan of Neighborhood Study

The second part of the plan of the Brooklyn public library to study carefully the neighborhoods served by each branch library, as outlined in the report of Librarian Hill for 1908, was carried out by a "Neighborhood exhibit," recently held at the Williamsburgh branch. This exhibit aimed to represent the sociological conditions in each district and the administrative problems arising therefrom. Methods and plans for dealing with these problems were shown, as well as special labor-saving devices, indexes, booklists, joke books, etc. Each branch exhibited, as a basis, a map of its neighborhood, which indicated the density of population, the location of public institutions, schools, places of worship and in some cases, the industrial character of the community and nationalities of its inhabitants. The Administration department, in addition to a large map showing the location of each branch and the theoretical boundaries of the district of each, exhibited large drawings of the proposed central building, and two charts picturing the growth of the Brooklyn public library system in number of branches, circulation and income. Written reports, describing neighborhood conditions and neighborhood work, prepared by each branch librarian earlier in the year, were placed alongside of each branch's exhibit.

The exhibit, together with a summary of the written reports, served to give to the branch workers a view of the work of the library as a whole. The great number of different methods and devices displayed, which, while often dealing with similar problems, did not duplicate each other, showed that the individuality of the work in the various branches is not at all hampered by the rigid uniformity in routine matters necessary for the economical administration of a large library system.

Several branches have begun to

adopt many of the suggestions given by this comparative display, and to facilitate this, a classified list of the material submitted is being prepared. It is now planned either to maintain a permanent exhibit that will keep the entire staff in touch with neighborhood work throughout the city, or to hold such an exhibit every year.

### Library Extension in Chicago

Plans for the betterment and extension of the service of the Public library of Chicago have begun to take definite form, and the following have already been presented to and approved by the Board of Directors.

The 150 employes of the library have been graded by a plan which raises the positions from clerical to professional standing, under a classified system which admits of frequent promotion throughout, based on efficiency and degree of service. Arrangements are being made to open a training class for apprentices about February 1, by which it is hoped to furnish competent service and at the same time meet the requirements of the Civil Service rules.

An open shelf room will be opened as soon as it can be fitted up, adjoining the circulating department on the left, where 15,000 v. will be shelved and loaned by special service. A quick information desk will be placed to the right, where an attendant will be expected to answer all reasonable questions without the necessity of sending the inquirer to the reference room.

The two-books-on-one-card system will go into force January 1. Assurance of \$400,000 for branch libraries gives means for from five to six branch library buildings, plans for which will be prepared at once. Some of the reading rooms in various parts of the city have been made circulating rooms as well. Other branches in the field houses and in rented quarters will be opened at once, six on the south side, three on the west side and two on the north side. Circulating branches have already been opened in two school buildings, and one

complete series of classroom libraries has been ordered placed in one school building in each school district as a beginning. Several new deposit stations are to be opened in mercantile and industrial centers for the employes on condition that a room be set aside and equipped and a regular librarian be employed.

Other plans are still under discussion but these noted will be carried out at once.

### Drexel Institute Library School

#### Appointment of director

June Richardson Donnelly has been appointed director of the Library school and library, to succeed Alice B. Kroeger. Miss Donnelly is a resident of Cincinnati, O. She was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1895, taking the degree of B. S. with distinction. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She took the course in the New York State library school, 1901-03, receiving the degree of B. L. S. in 1907. From 1903-05 she was connected with the Cincinnati public library, with the official title of cataloger. She, however, gained experience in other forms of work, especially reference work. Since September, 1905, she has been instructor in library science in Simmons college library school, carrying courses in reference work, book selection and bibliography. Miss Robbins, director of Simmons college library school, writes thus of Miss Donnelly:

She is liked and respected by both the students and her fellow instructors, for she has dignity, tact, and an interest in a variety of things, with the saving grace of a keen sense of humor. In the class-room Miss Donnelly has been very successful. She presents her subjects logically, with a due sense of proportion, and in a clear, interesting manner. Personally she has a good deal of executive ability, is not easily flurried, thinks quickly, plans her work to accomplish much in a given time, and has a broad point of view.

One of her library school classmates writes: "I have always recalled her as a woman of steadfast and high ideals, a student at heart, and of broad vision."

Miss Donnelly did exceptionally good work in reference and book selection in the New York State library school. She is thus, with her experience in teaching those subjects, well qualified to carry on at Drexel the courses which have been especially emphasized by Miss Kroeger. Miss Donnelly will remain at Simmons during January. She will take office at Drexel, February 1.

SALOME CUTLER FAIRCHILD,  
Dec. 15, 1909. Acting director.

### Illinois Library School Alumni Association

#### Officers and dues

The officers of the Illinois library school alumni association elected at the last meeting were as follows: President, F. K. W. Drury, Urbana, Ill.; first vice-president, Nellie Parham, Bloomington, Ill.; second vice-president, Helen Kennedy, Madison, Wis.; secretary-treasurer, Alice Mann, Kewanee, Ill.; member of the executive committee, Linda Clatworthy, Dayton, O.

Membership fees for the current year are now due and should be sent to the secretary-treasurer.

### The Questionnaire Again

The League of library commissions publishes a yearbook. That of 1908 contains 96 pages in which are a historical summary, a list of State library commissions, the constitution; then a very illuminating summary of the several activities of all the different commissions of the country; also, a tabular summary of the work of traveling libraries, and other interesting tables.

We are led to ask why the American library association does not make its yearbook at least as complete in its way as is this one. In view of the size and importance of the A. L. A. it would be proper for it to publish a much more complete handbook than this, something more complete in reference to all the libraries of the coun-



try, than is this little handbook with reference to commissions.

While questions are being asked, here is another: Why have the authorities of the A. L. A. made no attempt to interest and attract the special libraries of the country, libraries like that of the Merchants' association of New York? This association, through its librarian, has succeeded in forming a Special libraries' association, and with slight difficulty has secured a membership of from 30 to 40 libraries, nearly all of which had probably never heard, until last summer, of the A. L. A. This would indicate that the activities of the management of the A. L. A. leave something to be desired.

Again, the newspaper and periodical press of the country in general has taken no note whatever of the last two conferences of the A. L. A., those at Minnetonka and Bretton Woods. A very few local newspapers in the Middle West made note of the Minnetonka conference, and one Boston journal reported that at Bretton Woods. But for an association to hold two conferences, with an attendance of 600 to 800 members, without even a word of comment or mention by newspapers and periodicals in general, indicates a lack of something somewhere. Even the *New York Nation* omitted its usual interesting letters for years always furnished by our old friend Mr Fletcher. Is there among the members of the executive board or council of the A. L. A. a distinct desire to keep secret from the rest of the world the fact that the American library association holds annual conferences of from 600 to 800 persons? Or is this failure to let the general public know that librarians hold meetings, due to lack of alertness on the part of A. L. A. officials?

Another question. The National education association established more than 10 years ago a library department. It did this at the request of librarians and in recognition of the fact that librarians

should confer with teachers on library topics. For more than a year now the suggestion has been before the officials of the A. L. A. that they establish a school department in which librarians could, in company with the teachers, discuss questions common to the two groups, in a manner helpful to them both. Is there any antagonism to teachers in the A. L. A.; or is this failure to do the obvious thing in this direction due to indifference to the progress of the association and to proper coöperation with the teachers on the part of its officials?

One more question. Other associations, not more able than that of the librarians, succeed in having printed, before their conferences, the reports of their officers, the reports of their committees, and most of the papers to be presented. If they do not do this, they are included in their programs, thus making the reading of them before the conference body quite unnecessary. The A. L. A. has done this to some extent in former years. Has the present administration been unable to do this very simple thing, or is it opposed to doing it?

QUESTIONER.

### Book Lists\*

#### Some helps for little housekeepers

Beard—How to amuse yourselves and others.

Beard—Indoor and outdoor handicraft and recreation for girls.

Beard—New ideas for work and play; what a girl can make and do.

Beard—Things worth doing and how to do them.

Benson—Book of indoor games for young people.

Burrell—A little cook book for a little girl.

Burrell—Saturday mornings; or, How Margaret learned to keep house.

Campbell—American girl's home book of work and play.

\*Prepared on separate slips for distribution by the Mankato (Minn.) public library, 1909.

Duncan—Mary's garden and how it grew.

Duncan—When mother lets us garden.

Games book for boys and girls.

Johnson—When mother lets us cook.

Kirkland—Dora's housekeeping.

Kirkland—Six little cooks.

Lounsberry—Garden book for young people.

White—Book of children's parties.

White—Child's rainy day book.

#### Some helps for mechanics and engineers

Barber—Engineer's sketch book of mechanical movements, devices, appliances, etc.

Barnard—Tools and machines.

Brown & Sharpe—Practical treatise on gearing.

Engineering Magazine (reference room).

Grimshaw—Shop kinks; a book on machine-shop practice.

Hiscox—Gas, gasoline and oil engines.

Hiscox—Modern steam engineering; a practical work for steam users, electricians, firemen and engineers.

International Library of Technology—Machine-shop practice.

Leonard—Machine-shop tools and methods.

Rogers—Progressive machinist.

Ropser—Engineer's handy book.

Rose—Complete practical machinist.

Trautwine—Civil engineer's pocket book.

Unwin—Elements of machine design.

Usher—Modern machinist; a practical treatise on modern machine methods.

Watson—How to run engines and boilers.

Wilson—Practical tool-maker and designer.

These are only a few of the many books in these classes. Ask for others on carpentry, motors, mechanical drawing, patents, etc.

#### Some useful books for useful boys

Adams—Outdoor book for boys.

Barnard—Tools and machines.

Beard—American boy's handy book; or, What to do and how to do it.

Beard—Jack of all trades; new ideas for American boys.

Beard—New ideas for out of doors; the field and forest handy book.

Beard—Outdoor handy book; for playground, field and forest.

Benson—Book of indoor games for young people.

Bower—How to make common things.

Craigin—A boy's workshop, with plans and designs for indoor and outdoor work.

Duncan—When mother lets us garden.

Games book for boys and girls.

Hall—Boy craftsman; practical and profitable ideas for a boy's leisure hours.

Kibbon—Elementary woodwork.

Lounsberry—Garden book for young people.

Luken—Boy engineers; what they did and how they did it.

St John—How two boys made their own electrical apparatus.

St John—Things a boy should know about electricity.

Sloane—Electric toy making for amateurs.

Vance—Ways for boys to make and do things.

#### The Value of Books

A young girl once asked Mark Twain if he liked books for Christmas gifts.

"Well, that depends," drawled the great humorist. "If a book has a leather cover it is really valuable as a razor strop. If it is a brief, concise work, such as the French write, it is useful to put under the short leg of a wabby table. An old-fashioned book with a clasp can't be beat as a missile to hurl at a dog, and a large book, like a geography, is as good as a piece of tin to nail over a broken pane of glass."

School libraries in towns where there are public libraries should contain little beside works of ready reference. Duplication is waste.

### "With Phraseology"

Senate document 129, of the 61st Congress, first session, is a publication which must be valuable to many and should be interesting to all. Its full title is: *Precedents; Decisions on points of order, with phraseology, in the United States Senate, from the 1st Congress to end of the 60th Congress, 1789-1909*; compiled by Henry H. Gilfry, chief clerk of the United States Senate.

The book will no doubt at once become a standard manual of parliamentary practice, but its chief effect on the life and manners of the American people—and a very considerable effect it may be—is likely to come from part 2, entitled *Phraseology*.

Here are given all the formal phrases in which and by which the "elder statesmen" carry on the serious business of the senate. Though one senator is in the record (the Congressional Record) as saying "I am a rude man, and I don't care," yet it is probably true that in no deliberative body does phraseology play a more important part than in the United States senate. Now that this "most potent, grave, and reverend" phraseology has been brought together and printed in a handy manual, the opportunity to simulate the dignity of the senate, in phrase at least, will appeal irresistibly to the tens of thousands of debating clubs, literary societies, and other unofficial deliberative bodies in every part of the country, many of whose members it may be presumed are already dreaming of senatorial careers. While waiting for these dreams to materialize, what can be more alluring, what more apt and fitting, than to seize the auspicious occasion to acquire the stately phraseology of the senate? If all the clubs pick up this opportunity as eagerly as it is reasonable to expect them to do, the effect on American speech and manners in a generation or less cannot fail to be marked.

F. A. CRANDALL.

Washington, D. C.

### Library Schools

#### Drexel institute

Former graduates of the school have received appointments as follows:

Mrs Mary E. Daigh, '06, librarian, Lansing (Mich.) public library. Mrs. Daigh recently resigned as librarian at Connellsville, Pa.

Mary L. Doig, '08, assistant, State library, Topeka, Kan.

M. Louise Hunt, '01, Reference department Portland (Ore.) public library. Miss Hunt has been since 1907 librarian of the Lansing (Mich.) public library.

Sara L. Kellogg, '09, assistant, Morrisania branch, New York public library.

Margaret C. Meagher, '09, assistant in the cataloging department, University of Pennsylvania library.

Mrs Casandra U. Warner, '09, assistant in the Reference department, Free library of Philadelphia.

The following lectures from visiting librarians have been given:

October 20, Miss L. E. Stearns, "Some western phases of library work," and "The passing of the bonnet."

November 12, Isabel Ely Lord, "Problems in book-buying."

November 23, Helen U. Price, "Fiction for girls between nine and eleven," and "Fiction for girls between eleven and fifteen."

November 24, Mary P. Farr, "Commission work in Maryland."

Besides giving the regular courses in selection of books, American authors and reference work, the acting director has given the following lectures: *Function of the library*, *Selection of books in history*, *Selection of books in biography*, *Publishers* (two lectures).

On December 12, the students, with Miss Hopkins as conductor, visited Bryn Mawr college library.

SALOME CUTLER FAIRCHILD,  
Acting director.

#### New York state library

The seniors have selected the following subjects for their original bibliographies:

Birge, Anna G. Contribution to a bibliography of Mark Twain.

Blasi, Henrietta M. The church and the labor problem.

Callahan, Lilian J. Edmund William Gosse.  
Coffin, Helen & Rhodes, Isabella K. Index of New York State documents before 1830.

Colegrove, Mrs. Mabel E. Diplomatic relations of the United States and Japan.

Cunningham, Jesse. Contribution to the bibliography of the lives of American judges and lawyers.

Dearborn, James M. Complete bibliography of Woodrow Wilson.

Firmin, Kate M. Passion play of Oberammergau.

Fullerton, Pauline V. Select bibliography on Venetian art.

George, Lillian M. Recent theories of matter.

Gilnack, Anna B. George Meredith.

Hill, Galen W. Index to reports to special legislative committees and investigation commissions under legislative appointment in the United States since 1890.

Holdridge, Kathreen. The school-house as a social center.

Joeckel, Carleton. General Nathaniel Greene.

Long, Harriet C. Pennsylvania-Germans; a reading list.

Marquand, Fannie E. Strauss, Puccini and De Bussy and their operas.

Sherwood, Ethel A. Modern industrial education; a selected list.

Suter, Martha W. Draft riots in New York City, July 13-17, 1863.

Wakefield, Bertha. Dramatization of the novel.

Warren, Ruth E. Edward Everett Hale.

Several of the bibliographies are being prepared primarily for use in other sections of the State library, notably the Legislative Reference section and the Law library.

In the report of the school for 1908-09 which has just been issued, special attention is called, among other topics, to the school's service as a state school, to the most important changes in the course of study for recent years, and to the changes in the plan of the summer school for 1910.

The school has received its copy of "Materials and features of the printed book," prepared by John Cotton Dana. Although the school already has a large amount of similar material illustrating especially the courses on bookbinding, printing and history of books and libraries, the admirable arrangement of Mr Dana's collection will make the collection a very decided help in the courses mentioned.

F. K. WALTER.

#### Pratt institute

The class of 1910 completed its organization late in October, electing as president Miss Taggart, of Michigan, and as secretary-treasurer, Miss Webb, of Indiana.

Early in the term the work of the Library chapter of the Neighborhood association was put before the class, the members deciding individually whether or not they would take part in this work during the year. The few remaining home-libraries had been given up by the chapter, owing to the difficulty of finding suitable homes and regular visitors, and of securing proper and systematic supervision. The library at Maxwell House, a social settlement, has now been turned over to the chapter for certain days and hours, and those students who elected work there have been engaged in organizing the library, and will have afternoon or evening practice there, under supervision. The membership of the library is largely juvenile.

On October 25 and 26, Miss L. E. Stearns spoke to the school on Some western phases of library work and on Traveling libraries. On the evening of October 25, Miss Stearns gave her entertaining lecture on "The passing of the bonnet," before the school and invited guests, after which there was a social hour, with refreshments.

The annual reception of the Graduates' association to the entering class took place the evening of November 17, 97 being present, a larger number than usual. The occasion served also as an introduction of Miss Johnson, the new member of the faculty, to the graduate body. The only planned entertainment of the evening was story-telling by Miss Hassler and Miss Douglas.

On November 23, Jeannette Steenberg, on the eve of her return to Denmark, visited the school and spoke to the students on Libraries in Denmark.

The arrangement of the fall sched-

ule, by which some Saturdays are whole holidays, combined with the unusually fine weather, has given the students from out of town an excellent opportunity for sightseeing in and around New York, and they have taken full advantage of it.

The following appointments, changes and promotions among graduates have been reported:

Edith Adams ('03), children's librarian, Public library, Utica, N. Y.

Sarah B. Askew ('04), assistant State librarian, New Jersey.

Mary V. Bethune ('03 and '04), assistant, Toronto university library.

Janet Bird ('94), librarian, Thomas Beaver library, Danville, Pa.

Grace F. Bush ('08), librarian, Tiffany studios, New York.

Maud Derickson ('02), assistant, Minnesota university library, Minneapolis.

Katharine F. Grasty ('06), children's librarian, Jackson Square branch, New York.

Sophie Hulsizer ('05), librarian, Ozone Park branch, Queensborough public library.

Ina Rankin ('09), assistant, Chat-ham Square branch, New York public library.

Ethel R. Sawyer ('06), assistant superintendent of circulation, Public library; Seattle.

Catherine S. Tracey, ('05 and '06), cataloger, Columbia university library.

Emily Turner ('98), partner in "The Indexers," 27 East 22d street, New York.

Charlotte Wallace ('97), superintendent of circulation, Public library, Seattle.

Ruth Wright ('03), substitute organizer, Oregon library commission.

MARY W. PLUMMER,  
Director.

#### Syracuse university

On November 30 Mrs Louise Benson, well known in central New York as a lecturer on the topics of the day, gave before the school an interesting and in-

structive lecture on current art matters. This was followed by a reception given by the seniors to the undergraduate students.

On December 9 occurred the eighth annual initiation banquet of the library fraternity, Alpha of Pi Lambda Sigma. Edith Kirk, '05, was toastmistress and called for the following toasts: "The book," Lillian Bishop, '11; "The cover," Ethel Ball, '11; "The title," Carrie Pitcher, '10; "The preface," Besse Stone Warring, '05; "The contents," Mildred Webb, '10; "The appendix," Edith Haith, '12; "The readers," Katharine Utley, '10. The initiates were Ethel Ball, '11; Carolyn Cady, '12; Edith E. Haith, '12; Edith G. Jones, '11; Arloine Selden, '11; Mildred Van Schoick, '11; Norma Van Surdam, '11; Marion H. Wells, '12; and honorary member, Carrie Potter, '08.

Edith Erskine, '08, has been appointed librarian of the library recently established for the benefit of its employes by Sprague, Warner & Co., wholesale grocers of Chicago, in co-operation with the Chicago public library.

MARY J. SIBLEY.

#### Western Reserve university

Although Miss Effie Power has severed her connections with the Cleveland public library and is now first assistant in the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, she was enabled, through the kindness of that library, to give as usual her lectures in children's work at Western Reserve. These lectures were given during the week of November 30, and were six in number, five dealing with children's literature and one with library instruction in Normal schools.

A station of the Cleveland public library to be called the East station was opened to the public on December 1 in the Library school building and will be open daily from two to five p. m. All of the work connected with preparing the books of this collection for circulation has been done by the students of the school as a part of their technical



practice work, and the conducting of the station is in the hands of the staff and present students of the school. It is hoped that this is the beginning, out of which will grow in time a full-fledged branch of the Cleveland public library.

#### Wisconsin

Miss Ahern paid her annual visit to the school November 22 and 23. She addressed the students on "Who's who in the library world" and "The business side of library work."

On the day of Miss Ahern's arrival, a faculty tea was given in her honor by Miss Hazeltine, at the home of Dr and Mrs Thwaites.

The Illinois members of the faculty gave an informal luncheon for her on Tuesday.

Weekly assemblies of fifteen minutes have been made a part of the regular school schedule. At these assemblies, informal talks are given on inspirational topics of interest to library workers. Those who have thus far addressed the students are Dr McCarthy, of the Legislative Reference department; Mr Hutchins, of the University Extension department; Mr Doty, of the Civil Service commission, and Miss Hazeltine. As a substitute for one of the regular assemblies, the members of the class were privileged to attend an address on conservation of natural resources given by ex-Secretary of the Interior James R. Garfield, before the students of the university.

In addition to these 15-minute talks, special lectures have been given on "Evaluation of books in European history," by Professor Munro, of the University of Wisconsin; "Selection of books in economics," by Dr Price, also of the University of Wisconsin, and "Collecting local history," by Dr Thwaites.

The third of the evening book selection seminars was conducted by Mrs Herron, assistant, *A. L. A. Booklist*, who talked on books of travel.

At the conclusion of the course in Parliamentary practice, given by Mr

Dudgeon, the class elections were held, with the following result: President, Mrs M. C. Budlong, of the North Dakota library commission; vice-president, Grace Stevens, Oshkosh; secretary, Hannah Lawrence, Buffalo, N. Y.; treasurer, Blanch Unterkircher, Burlington, Ia. These officers, with Lotta Fleck, Broadhead, and Corina L. Kittleson, Minneapolis, form the executive committee.

The publishing house exhibition, which concludes Miss Hazeltine's course in Publishing houses, was held Saturday morning, December 18. Each student displayed at her desk representative publications of the house or group of houses assigned her, and gave some explanation of her exhibit and of the characteristics of her house. Advantage was taken of this occasion to display some of the attractive publications of the various houses which appear at the Christmas season.

The Christmas recess is announced from December 22 to January 4.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE.

The grade teacher may not necessarily be familiar with this entire range of reading matter, though she would be a larger teacher if she were, but the librarian must be. Yet it is not enough, in either case, to have such lists, nor to provide the books. Does the teacher know the two or the half dozen or dozen or the twenty-five books that she commends to her class? Does the librarian know all the books in the groups that he or she places on the shelves for readers up to the end of the high school course? Books not in fiction alone, but books in history and biography, books in every common department of science, books in the trades, in the manual arts, in the fine arts? What is intimately known can be more intimately given, and just the right mental stimulus applied, in just the right way to the young people forming the class of readers mentioned, will be the farthest reaching of any, in its effects upon the citizenship of the future.

### Special A. L. A. Meetings in Chicago

A midwinter meeting of the Council of the A. L. A. has been called for Jan. 15, 1910, at A. L. A. headquarters, Chicago. The topics proposed for consideration are as follows:

The International congress of archivists and librarians, Brussels, 1910.

Affiliation of State library associations and the A. L. A.

Report of Committee on sections of the association.

Library sections of other educational associations.

Other meetings to be held in Chicago in the first week of January are as follows:

League of library commissions, January 3-4.

A. L. A. executive board, January 4.

A. L. A. publishing board, January 4.

American Library institute, January 6.

College and university librarians, January 7.

The Stratford hotel will be headquarters.

### Special Libraries Association

#### First Meeting

The Special libraries association held its first annual meeting on November 5, in the assembly room of the Merchants' association of New York City. About 40 were present. Mr Dana, president, in calling the meeting to order, drew attention to the importance of special libraries, to their recent rapid increase in number, and to the fact that they indicate that the habit is growing among men of affairs to look to books and periodicals and printed material in general for direct help in the solution of the questions that are continually confronting them. Mr Mead, secretary of the Merchants' association, welcomed the meeting and spoke briefly of the value to his association of its own special library. The program was as follows:

Special libraries, Dr Robert H. Whit-

ten, librarian Public service commission, first district, New York.

Banking libraries, Beatrice Carr, New York.

Coöperation between special libraries, Herbert O. Brigham, librarian, Rhode Island State library, Providence.

Specialized municipal libraries, Milo R. Maltbie, commissioner, Public Service Commission, first district, New York.

Maps and atlases, Sarah Ball, librarian, Business Men's branch, Free public library, Newark.

Coöperation in the publication of lists, George W. Lee, Boston.

The paper by Miss Ball on maps and atlases was not read at the meeting, as it seemed wise to shorten the program and take more time for discussion.

The general discussion which followed the formal program was of great interest, and showed that many of those present were heartily in sympathy with the plan of coöperation between special libraries. It showed, also, that the lines along which this new association may best work cannot yet be definitely determined.

The association originated in a search which was made by the librarians of a few special libraries for information in regard to their respective problems. There was so much to be learned in regard to the many questions that arose that it was then suggested that an association be formed. A circular was sent to a few libraries. The response was so hearty, and as time went on the number of special libraries was discovered to be so numerous in the country, that it was thought wise to continue the movement. It seems that there are at least 150, and probably double that number, of libraries of a very special character in the country today. It seems, also, curiously enough, that the existence of the American library association had not been brought to the attention of many of the librarians and managers of these special libraries by the authorities. The result

is that, on the one hand, the national association has lost the influence of this large body of active persons and institutions for several years; and, on the other hand, these special institutions have lost what they might have gained from association with a national body. I venture to speak plainly in regard to this because I have insisted, to the point of being disagreeable on more than one occasion, that it is a duty of the management of the A. L. A. to make public its existence and its deeds.

The Special libraries association has not been established for any other purpose than to promote the library idea. It will undoubtedly, as soon as it has proved itself to be a useful and permanent thing, become a component part of the American library association.

The executive board of this new body has decided, that its first publication, to appear in January, 1910, shall include the constitution, officers, brief report of the November meeting, and, especially, a list of all the special libraries in the country of which record can be secured, with a list, also, of the special department in which these special libraries are particularly strong.

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Know books. Important as is the knowledge of people, it is quite as necessary, in order to bring the right book and the right reader together, to know books. We have been laying needed emphasis in our library training schools upon technical processes. We ought to have our books methodically arranged; we ought to put them into the reader's hands with as little fuss and delay as possible. Yet the importance of all this pales before the vital necessity of knowing what it is that we are classifying so carefully and handing out so quickly. Therefore read, read, read. Skim some books, steep yourself in others and scrape at least a bowing acquaintance with as many as possible. Someone has said that the librarian who reads is lost. The librarian who doesn't read isn't worth finding!

### Library Institutes in Canada

A library institute, under the direction of the Ontario library association, was held at Brantford, November 10. It was the third meeting held in the Brantford district. The meeting was held especially for the benefit of the small libraries, but the quality and range of the discussions were of a high order that would have done credit to a more pretentious gathering.

"Municipal control of rural libraries" was discussed by Dr E. E. Kitchen, and "The selection and purchase of books for public libraries," by W. D. Carson. "Some things to avoid" were discussed by L. J. Burpee, librarian in Ottawa; while Secretary Hardy of the Ontario library association, pointed out some of the things known as library problems.

An evening address was given by T. G. Marquis on "Canadiana." Walter R. Nursey, inspector of public libraries for Ontario, reviewed the plans of the government in library aid.

Judge Hardy, president of the Ontario library association, opened a discussion on "How far the public library can aid in technical education." He emphasized the fact that the public libraries of Canada were neglecting an opportunity which was being taken advantage of by correspondence schools.

Another library institute was held at the Carnegie library, Ottawa, November 17. This was the first meeting of the kind held in the Ottawa district. A cordial welcome was given by the library officials at Ottawa at the morning meeting.

The afternoon meeting opened with an address by C. H. Gould, librarian of the McGill university, on "The modern library." A particularly bright and interesting paper from Miss Saxe, librarian of the Westmount public library, dealt with "Popularizing the library."

Annie A. Masson, children's librarian, Ottawa, presented an outline of her work with children, while Miss Rothwell discussed "Cataloging for small libraries." "Directions relating to book buying and book selection" were given



by E. A. Hardy, secretary of the Ontario library association.

A notable contribution was the address of Inspector Walter Nursey, who is taking a very active interest in the library movement in Ontario. He outlined the relation between the inspector and the library, and he discussed at some length the plan of assisting the smaller libraries, both financially and by means of traveling libraries, expert instructors and so on. He is very anxious to see a library school established in Ontario, and in many ways is repairing the loss sustained in the death of the late lamented Inspector Leavitt.

The Ontario library association pays the ordinary expenses of one representative from the libraries in the district, and each library is expected to have someone in attendance at the meeting.

Miss Charlton, librarian of the McGill medical library and M. de Crevecoeur of the Fraser Institute library of Montreal, were invited guests at the meeting, as were also Librarian Gould and Miss Saxe, all of these living outside the Ottawa district.

### A New Library Organization

In response to a call sent out by the secretary of the Public library commission, a library trustees' meeting was held in Indianapolis, November 4. Thirty-seven persons were present, representing 28 libraries in all parts of the state. The meeting was conducted as a round-table and the interest in the discussion was so intense that many of the topics suggested for discussion were not taken up, for lack of time.

The topics discussed were as follows: Organization of the board; duties of the different committees; board meetings; the budget; salaries; hours and vacations; relation of the library to the township and how to secure township support.

Washington T. Porter, trustee of the Cincinnati public library and chairman of the Trustees' section of the A. L. A.,

was present and gave a brief talk on the advantages of having a state trustees' association and of attending the A. L. A. meetings. After his talk an organization was effected, with T. F. Rose of Muncie, president, and Mrs. Sam Matthews of Tipton, secretary. An executive committee was appointed to draft a constitution and decide on the time and place of the next meeting.

The association will be known as the Indiana library trustees' association and is to be independent of the Indiana library association. Mr. Rose, the president, is anxious to have the association take steps at once to secure the codification of the library laws.

### Library of Congress

Report 1908-1909

The report of the Librarian of Congress for the year ending June 30, 1909 (Washington, Government printing office, 220 p.), has come to hand; and, as in previous years, Dr. Putnam's résumé of the important activities of our national library contains food for information and reflection for everyone actively engaged in library work.

The librarian dwells briefly upon the loss to the library and to us all of his illustrious predecessor in office, Dr. Spofford, and refers to the detailed account of Dr. Spofford's life and activities given in the memorial volume issued last year by the District of Columbia library association.

Of changes in the library staff the most conspicuous is the succession of Mr. Worthington C. Ford by Mr. Gaillard Hunt, as chief of the Department of manuscripts; furthermore, there has been appointed an assistant register of copyrights—a new office filled the first time by Mr. Ernest Bruncken.

The librarian calls attention to resignations of subordinate employees, especially in the catalog and classification division. The two sides of the effect upon the service of these changes are brought out effectively in the utterances

of the chief cataloger and the chief classifier, which we subjoin here.

J. C. M. Hanson makes the following statement:

While the constant change of personnel referred to no doubt causes great loss of time and retards progress, the fact that so many of the assistants are called to other libraries is not without its compensating feature. This fact should in course of time prove of material assistance in furthering the coöperative work which tends to center about the Library of Congress. Intimate knowledge of the methods and equipment of the Central Library on the part of librarians and assistants of other institutions will no doubt prove of mutual advantage in carrying on the various coöperative activities.

Charles Martel expresses himself as follows:

The men and women preparing to enter the library profession appear to be training more and more exclusively for purely executive positions. The multiplication of libraries and the reorganization of older ones into centralized and complex library systems is creating a demand in that direction to which attention has been called repeatedly and prominently of late in the organs of the American library world. As in these cases the scientific and technical problems are not under consideration, it is natural that no reference should be made to them and that the high order of executive ability necessary for the general administration of such institutions should alone be dwelt upon. Cataloging, classification, reference work, and other such services are, however, vital functions of the library organism. The tendency of aspirants for library honors to confine their efforts to the acquisition of administrative training and experience, and to look upon the other functions with indifference, if not disdain, may be due to the greater emphasis placed upon the former in current professional discussions; not that the executive is held in greater honor, but the others in less. Coöperative cataloging and classification on the other hand demand comprehensive knowledge and great efficiency. They also involve problems of organization and require constant effort toward improvement in methods and simplification of processes. The value of this service has received recognition by appropriate rank in a few instances, but unless such recognition is granted less grudgingly the technical departments of library work will not attract men of the education and ability requisite to success in them.

These remarks are, indeed, worthy of attention among the students in library schools and young assistants not yet

called to any special branch of library work.

The Catalog division records the total number of volumes cataloged as 121,640. Mr Hanson reports on other matters of general interest as follows:

As indicated in the report of last year, the completion of the Rules for author and title entry seemed likely to open the way for the printing, at least in tentative form, of our list of subject headings. What has tended to hasten the decision to print has been the unsatisfactory state of the present interleaved lists which, besides breaking down in a number of places, required an undue amount of time and labor for insertion of new headings. The preparation of copy was begun in January and it was decided:

1) To print a tentative list of the headings as they now stand, exclusive of names of persons and places, societies, institutions, and bodies of various kinds, treaties, conventions, and the like, scientific names of individual chemical substances, and systematic names of genera, species, and subspecies in botany and zoology.

2) To print at more or less regular intervals cumulative lists of additions and changes supplementing the main list.

The plan of subjects now being adopted is to some extent tentative. The present list cannot, therefore, be accepted as final.

A copy of the advance edition will be furnished free to each library utilizing L. C. cards.

Further: Some modifications have been made in the items added to the catalog entry as follows: a) Wherever the information has been supplied by the publisher, the price of the book is now added in a note: b) in addition to the copyright number and year of entry, which have been regularly added to the catalog cards since May, 1907, the Copyright Office now supplies information in regard to name of copyright proprietor and actual date of entry, all of which is printed in a note near the bottom of the card.

These features\* of the Librarian's report will indicate sufficiently that it is a document well worth reading in its entirety. It bears witness of an activity that reflects honor upon our government and credit upon the library profession generally, and which is of such importance to the public generally, that we wish this could be readily recognized among many more patrons of libraries than have now an opportunity to know thereof.

J. CHRISTIAN BAY.

\*Other items from the report may be seen on pp. 43-44.

### Library Meetings

**Alabama**—The sixth annual meeting of the Alabama library association was held November 30, December 1-2, with sessions at Montgomery and Auburn. The meeting was one of unusual interest, owing to the presence of Chalmers Hadley of Chicago and Julia T. Rankin of Atlanta as well as an unusually large number of the librarians and library workers of the state.

The opening session was held on the evening of November 30 in the Carnegie library at Montgomery, Dr Thomas M. Owen, presiding. The address of welcome was delivered by the president, and the response was made by Miss McCauley, librarian, Judson college, Marion. The address of the evening was made by Mr Hadley, who spoke on the subject of "The library and the public." Mr Hadley was heard with the keenest interest. He spoke briefly of the place of the library in the life of a community, and emphasized the fact that the responsibility for making the library a force in the community rested largely upon the librarian. At the close of the formal program a reception was given the visitors by the City federation of Women's clubs of Montgomery.

The second session was held on the morning of December 1, also in the library. This meeting was devoted exclusively to topics of interest to librarians. The session opened with the annual address of the president, who gave a résumé of the activities and progress of the association from its organization, November 21, 1904, closing with a brief review of the past year's work.

A paper by Miss Virden, librarian of the Talladega public library, on the "Organization and administration of a small public library," followed. The subject was treated in a very practical way.

The round table discussions were opened by Miss O. I. Smith, librarian, University of Alabama, who spoke on the "Rent collection." Other topics discussed were: "Advertising the library,"

by Anne Ogle Shivers, librarian, Alabama Polytechnic institute, Auburn; "1) Library bindings, 2) Mending of books," by Miss Virden, librarian, Talladega public library; "Inter-library loans," by Miss Elmore, librarian, Carnegie library, Montgomery; "1) Editions, 2) Print, 3) Latest editions in technical literature, 4) Collation of books," by Lucile Cully, assistant librarian, Carnegie library, Montgomery; "Ways in which the Library Extension division, Alabama state department of archives and history, can serve the library interests of the state," by Tommie Dora Barker, library extension assistant, department of archives and history. All the subjects caused very lively discussion, particularly the "Rent collection" and "Advertising the library." The session was brought to a close only when the lunch hour made it a necessity. In the afternoon the visitors were given a trip over the city in automobiles, ending the ride with a visit to the historic state capitol. At five o'clock the party was entertained at tea at the home of Dr and Mrs Owen.

The second night's session was again held in the Montgomery library. The speakers for the evening included Julia T. Rankin, Frances Nimmo Greene and Bessie Ford. Miss Rankin's subject was "Trained librarianship." She traced briefly the development of the library movement in the South, and showed how, as a result, a demand for trained librarians was created—a demand that could only be satisfied by a training school. The outcome was the establishment of the Library training school of the Carnegie library, Atlanta. The subject of Miss Ford's paper was the "Administration of a college library." Miss Ford is the librarian of the Alabama girls' school, Montevallo. Miss Greene followed, and gave an outline of her work for the past year as secretary of the Birmingham library association. She traced the remarkable progress that had been made in a year's time from a subscription library with not exceeding 200 borrowers,

to a free public library with a membership of something over 1300. This was the last session held in Montgomery.

The whole of the last day, December 2, was spent at Auburn, where the Alabama Polytechnic institute is located. The occasion of the visit was to formally dedicate the new Carnegie library building of the institute. The exercises were held in Langdon hall in the presence of the student body of over 700 boys, the faculty and instructors and the members of the library association, making an audience of something over 800 persons. Dr Charles C. Thach, president of the institute, made the address of welcome. He gave a brief history of the library, tracing its growth from the time when it was housed in one of the college buildings to its present home in a separate \$40,000 structure. Dr Owen responded on behalf of the association. Dr. James W. Lee, of Atlanta, Ga., delivered the dedicatory address on the subject of the "Value of books." After the address Dr Lee spoke a few impressive words in formal dedication of the library. He was followed by Dr Owen, who spoke for the state of Alabama and for the Alabama library association; by Mr Hadley, who bore greetings from the American library association, and by Miss Julia T. Rankin, who represented the Library training school and the Carnegie library of Atlanta.

A business session of the association was held in the afternoon when officers were elected for the ensuing year. The association then adjourned to meet next year at Selma, with day sessions at Marion and Montevallo.

The following is the list of officers elected for 1909-10: Dr Thomas M. Owen, president; Charles C. Thach, vice-president; Ora I. Smith, vice-president; P. W. Hodges, vice-president; Tommie Dora Barker, secretary; Laura Martin Elmore, treasurer, and for executive council (in addition to the above officers), J. H. Phillips, D. P. Christenberry, Thomas W. Palmer, Beau-

lah McCauley, Clarence L. McCartha, Jr.

Note.—Inasmuch as the 1908 meeting was not reported, record is here made that it was held December 8, 9 and 10, 1908, with sessions at Anniston, Jacksonville and Gadsden. It was well attended. Dr. Owen was chosen president; Miss Greene, secretary, and Miss Elmore, treasurer.

T. M. OWEN.

**California**—Autumn activity in the California library association began with a meeting of the Second district in the redwoods of the California Redwood Park (Big Basin), Santa Cruz county, on Sept. 11-12, 1909. On Saturday afternoon an informal conference was held for the benefit of the people from the neighboring country who could not remain for the evening meeting. In the evening the County library system was discussed by J. L. Gillis, State librarian, and Harriet G. Eddy, County library organizer. Edward Rowland Sill's poem "Among the redwoods" was read by Miss Walker. On Sunday morning, at the foot of one of the most ancient trees in the forest, Prof. W. R. Dudley, of Stanford university, told of the history, geology and plant life of the Big Basin. In the afternoon a walk was taken through the wonderful forest, and in the evening there was a camp-fire gathering at which S. B. Mitchell, of Stanford university library, acted as master of ceremonies. Miss Cole of the Santa Cruz public library read Henry Van Dyke's "God of the open air" and the meeting closed with story telling and songs. This meeting was so successful that the district officers hope that it will be the first of a series of annual outings for the Second district to which all library workers in California will be invited.

A meeting of the First district was held at the University of California on September 24. The following papers were read: "The public library and the city auditor," by Miss G. W. Littlejohn, of the Berkeley public library; "The arrangement of time schedules," by Ulrich Graff, of the University of California library; "Some new reference

books," by H. Ralph Mead, of the University of California library; "Education," by E. W. Maslin, trustee of the Alameda public library. The program closed with a short talk by Charles S. Greene, of the Oakland free library, on his trip East and the A. L. A. conference at Bretton Woods.\*

A joint meeting of the Fifth and Ninth districts was held at Colusa, October 25-26. On Monday afternoon in joint session with the Colusa county teachers' institute, the program was: "One library's use of pictures," by Mabel G. Huntley, of the Sacramento public library; "How to interest boys and girls in good books," by Miss Eddy, of the State library; "Books for the school library," by Miss Huntington, of the State library. In the evening there was a reception to librarians, teachers, visitors and townspeople, with the following program: "Address of welcome," by Judge Albery, president of the Colusa public library board of trustees; "Response and discussion of the new county library idea," by J. L. Gillis, State librarian; "How to start the county library system," by Bertha Kumli, of the State library. On Tuesday morning a round table for librarians was conducted by L. W. Ripley, librarian of the Sacramento public library.

The Fourth district held a meeting at Visalia on November 13, at which M. J. Ferguson, assistant State librarian, spoke on the "County library system for California," and Miss Kumli conducted a round table on library problems.

A meeting of the Sixth district was held at Hollywood on November 12. Miss Gretchen Libby read a paper on the "History of the Audubon movement."

J. L. Gillis addressed the meeting on "The new county library law." In the discussion which followed several library trustees severely criticized this law, and a resolution condemning the law was passed. After some further

discussion another resolution was adopted as follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that its members are in hearty accord with the State librarian in his efforts to extend, by legal authority, library privileges to all sections of the state, and that they recommend that the authorities of the various libraries who desire amendments to the existing law should forward the same to the State librarian for consideration.

Harriet G. Eddy spoke for a few minutes on the great desire of the country people for books and on the fact that this law was intended to make it possible to give them what they want.

A meeting of the Third district will be held at Vallejo on Dec. 11, 1909.

At a recent meeting of the executive committee it was decided to hold the next annual meeting of the association at Long Beach in April, 1910. Preceding the meeting a ten-day institute on library methods will be held. Further announcement concerning the details of the meeting will be made in a few weeks.

**Chicago**—The December meeting of the Chicago library club was held in the assembly room of the Public library, December 9. Five new members were voted in.

J. Christian Bay, classifier of the John Crerar library, spoke on "Some problems of classification." The problems discussed were:

1) The classification of difficult and new topics. 2) The recognition of old topics in new form. 3) Expanding as related to shelving and cataloging.

Mr Bay closed his paper by referring to personal benefits and enrichments the classifier himself receives from his slight contact with the many books on varied topics.

At the close of Mr Bay's paper, Miss Ahern conducted a question box on various phases of library work.

EDWARD D. TWEDELL, Sec'y.

**District of Columbia**—The regular monthly meeting of the association was held in the children's room of the Public library, Nov. 17, 1909, W.

\*Mr. Greene's address was printed in News Notes of California Libraries, Oct., 1909.



W. Bishop, presiding. Dr Walter T. Swingle, in charge of plant life history investigation in the Bureau of plant industry of the department of agriculture, spoke on the difficulties attending research in Chinese publications in Washington. The speaker after calling attention to Chinese books of reference, which he said are useful to us since Chinese encyclopedias, gazettees, etc., are the best of their kind, described the Chinese imperial encyclopedia, now in the Library of Congress, which was given to the United States in 1908 by the Emperor of China. The work has no continuous pagination and contains, besides 8000 pages of index and synopsis, one million pages of text. To get translations of the parts desired, it was necessary to have these parts photographed, and then sent to China, where they were translated and sent back.

Mr Swingle was followed by W. W. Bishop, superintendent of the reading room in the Library of Congress, who read a paper on Inter-library loans.

Mr Bishop said that the actual number of books lent and sought by libraries is not easily ascertained, as there exists no compilation of statistics on that topic. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, 119 institutions requested 919 titles of the Library of Congress, the total number of volumes sent being 1023. The process of the inter-library loan is an expensive one, and the cost of carriage is frequently excessive. Mr Bishop submitted reasons for opposing any scheme for a lending library organized under the American library association. In the first place, the National Library already lends very freely. It does not refuse to lend volumes in sets of transactions. It has placed no limit on the number of volumes it will lend to one institution at one time. No library created out of hand, could for years to come supply anything like the number of books wanted as inter-library loans, which Library of Congress can supply.

MILTENBERGER N. SMULL, Sec'y.

**Iowa**—The Library club in Iowa City, Ia., has taken for its subject, this year, bookmaking. The first paper of the year was by Prof. C. B. Wilson, of the German department of the university, upon the Nibelungenlied, in which he described some of the better known manuscripts of this work. The next paper will be upon manuscripts in general, and the following ones will take up the steps in the development of art.

The officers for the year are: President, Jennie E. Roberts; vice-president, Bessie Stover; Nina Shaffer, chairman of the program committee.

HARRIET E. HOWE, Sec'y-treas.

**Kansas**—The Kansas library association met at Ottawa, October 20-21, for its ninth annual session, with 50 librarians and library workers in attendance.

The meeting opened with an address by the president, Miss Francis, of the State Historical society, Topeka, who spoke of the unsuccessful attempt made during the 1908 legislative session to secure a state library organizer and urging greater effort for the next campaign. State Librarian King gave a résumé of the efforts made during the last five years to secure a library organizer. During the last unsuccessful campaign letters and pamphlets were sent out to the librarians of the state, to teachers, club women, legislators and others who were thought to be in sympathy with the organizer idea, urging their coöperation in the movement. A bill, jointly agreed upon by the executive board of the K. L. A. and the representatives of the Traveling libraries commission, was presented to both houses, but met with no response, as the general attitude of the legislature was against any measure requiring even a small appropriation. Efforts will be renewed at the next legislative session, and the interim devoted to formulating plans which may prove more successful.

Julius Lucht, of the Leavenworth public library, gave a short report of



the Bretton Woods A. L. A. conference, characterizing it as "probably marking a new epoch as a transition from the old stage of library economy to the new question of inter-library economy." The first session closed with a two-minute report from new libraries and of new features in old. New buildings were reported at Concordia, Parsons, Stafford and Arkansas City, as well as a number of increased appropriations.

On Wednesday evening, the Ottawa librarian, Miss Sheldon, entertained the librarians and their guests at a reception at her home. During the evening Mr Wright, of St Joseph, Mo., spoke on "The library and the mechanic." Basing his remarks on ex-President Roosevelt's statement that "No other learning is as important for the average man as the learning that will teach him to make his livelihood," Mr Wright proved the library's importance as a factor in the economic progress of the mechanic whose earning power increases in proportion to his knowledge of his work. The books necessary to help the shop-trained mechanic, who must compete with the more fortunate technical school graduate, can and should be supplied by even the smaller libraries.

The unprejudiced will admit that the carpenter and wood-worker has as valid a reason to expect to find a good magazine on the trade on which he depends for a livelihood, upon the library table, as has the light-literature reader to find the all-story paper or literary review there; or as good a book on stair-building, on the shelves as has any other library patron to find the book he may want; that the machinist, the electrician, the steam engineer, the plumber, the foundry worker or the person who wants to be one of these, should not be looked at askance, if he seek, by the side of the teacher in the public school with his or her magazine of education and books on psychology, for similar help in the reading room, and on the bookshelves, in keeping up with progress in his part of the world's work.

Miss Hendry, of McPherson, opened

the Thursday morning session with a paper on "The public library as an investment," in which the book-lover, the casual reader, the mechanic, and even the isolated rural reader may profit equally.

Miss Penn, of the State university library, Lawrence, followed with a comprehensive account of the work of a university library in accomplishing its threefold purpose of "providing a reference library for students and teachers, facilities for special and research work, and a literary home for students where they may cultivate a love for literature."

The question box, as conducted by Miss Watson, librarian of the State university, developed an interesting variety of opinions and practices with regard to Sunday opening, length of vacations, story hours and topics of a similar nature. Malcolm G. Wyer and P. B. Wright contributed suggestions from methods prevailing in their respective states.

School libraries formed the subject of a thoroughly practical and suggestive paper by the Hon. E. T. Fairchild, state superintendent of public instruction, Topeka. There are 274,793 v. in the rural school libraries of the state, but practically 50 per cent of the schools are without this important adjunct to their equipment. Much has been accomplished through the efforts of the county superintendents, but the selection of books for such libraries should be placed in the hands of a state board, and it is to be regretted that the bill embodying many of Mr Fairchild's good suggestions failed to receive action during the last legislative session.

Business was disposed of at the Thursday afternoon meeting, the advisory board being abolished, and the reports of the nominating and resolutions committees accepted. The 1910 meeting will be held at Abilene, and the one for 1911 at Parsons. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs Sara Judd Greenman, Kansas City; first vice-president, Mrs Nellie G. Beatty, Lawrence;

second vice-president, Jessie Dean, Washburn college, Topeka; third vice-president, Ada Allen, Chanute; member at large, J. L. King, State library, Topeka; secretary, Dora Penn, University library, Lawrence; treasurer, Mary C. Lee, Manhattan.

On Thursday evening Malcolm G. Wyer, librarian of University of Iowa, delivered the chief address of the meeting on "Government documents in the small library."

The production and distribution of documents were first explained, with special mention of the methods of filling "library wants" adopted by the recent superintendent of documents. As an aid to selection Mr Wyer had prepared for distribution to Kansas librarians a printed list of serial sets and recommended single documents useful in a small library, besides referring to the other lists available. One of the most useful is the H. W. Wilson eclectic catalog of 20 periodicals best adapted for small libraries, which indexes, besides valuable government publications, state and municipal documents.

An explanation as to the best methods of acquiring a collection of documents was followed by suggestions as to their care and arrangement, it being advisable in small libraries to classify documents and place them on the shelves with other books of the same class. The important points in cataloging are to get the entries under the most distinctive word and to be uniform. The entry should always be under the specific bureau responsible for the publication and not under the department to which the bureau belongs, i e, U. S.—Education, Bureau of, not U. S.—Interior, Dept. of.

Mr Wyer concluded one of the most interesting and valuable papers ever given before the association by summarizing as the most important points to be remembered in the treatment of documents:

1) The library should make a selection of the regularly appearing serials that it wishes to receive.

2) Make a selection of valuable single documents, using as aids the A. L. A. catalog, electric catalog and lists published by the superintendent of Documents.

3) Endeavor to secure these from the issuing office, from your congressman, or from the superintendent of documents.

4) Treat the documents as books, classify them, catalog them, and put them on the shelves with other books on the subject.

**Minnesota**—The Twin City library club held its regular meeting Dec. 6, 1909. About 50 members took dinner together at the Holmes hotel, after which the club was called to order in the directors' room of the Minneapolis public library.

After a full discussion as to the advisability of holding meetings every two months or less frequently, Miss Countryman moved that the constitution be so amended as to provide for two regular meetings each year, with the understanding that other meetings could be arranged by the executive committee whenever it seemed desirable or necessary.

Miss Evans, of Northfield, chairman of the Minnesota library commission, was present and gave a delightful talk in which she expressed her deep interest in library work and congratulated librarians on being part of so great a movement, drawing some apt illustrations from some of her recent experiences in Egypt.

The following officers were elected: H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis, president; Emma Hawley, Minnesota Historical society, vice-president; L. May Brooks, University library, secretary-treasurer.

**Pennsylvania**—The ninth annual meeting of the Keystone State library association was called to order by the president, Harrison W. Craver, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Friday morning, Oct. 29, 1909.

An address of welcome was given by George A. Macbeth, chairman of com-

mittee on library, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

W. W. Bishop, of the Library of Congress, read a paper on "Inter-library loans."

Library work with the blind was a subject discussed by Margaret Quirk, Home teacher for the blind, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

Friday afternoon members of the association visited the Carnegie library and the branch libraries of Pittsburgh and made an excursion to the Homestead Carnegie library and steel mills.

Friday evening an informal reception was held in Carnegie library, after which the evening session was opened by the president, who gave an address on "The library and its aims."

Library Waltonienseis, was the subject of a bright and original paper read by Sarah C. N. Bogle.

Henry F. Marx interested the association in his original thoughts on the circulating librarian. Mr Marx has conceived a novel idea of fitting up a trolley car with books and going to the districts where the workingmen live. The expenses have been considered, and it is not at all impracticable to carry out such a plan. It is certainly worth thinking about seriously.

At the close of the program the staff of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh entertained the association in the banquet hall of the library. This was one of the charming features of the state meeting.

Effie L. Power, of the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, conducted a round table on "Book selection for children."

"Selection of children's books from standard lists," was the subject of a paper read by Miss Burnite, of the Cleveland public library.

Modern fiction writers for children and some of their books were reviewed by Mr Wright, Mr Marx, Mr Craver, Miss Pendleton, Miss Engle, Miss Waltermann and others.

"Buying books; The trade side," was the subject of a most practical and ex-

cellent paper read by C. T. Hewitt, of the Order department, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

The two new words coined during the meeting of the association were Wal-tonian librarian and The super-boy.

Officers for the next year: Honorary president, John Thomson, Philadelphia; president, Henry F. Marx, Easton; vice-president, Jessie Welles, Pittsburgh; secretary, Isabelle Turner, Bethlehem; treasurer, O. R. Howard Thomson, Williamsport.

DAISY MARY SMITH, Sec'y.-Treas.

**North Carolina**—The North Carolina library association held its fifth annual meeting in Goldsboro, N. C., December 2-3. It was one of the most interesting and successful meetings the association has held.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to formal routine business. Thursday evening was devoted to public addresses of high order, which undoubtedly will create enthusiasm and helpfulness for library matters throughout the state. The principal address was made by Prof. W. C. Jackson, professor of history at Greensboro state normal school.

Professor Jackson referred to the marvelous growth in library extension, and to the network of powerful intellectual centers afforded by libraries throughout the country. Not the least of their power was the effect they had had on the generosity of wealthy persons from whom princely gifts had been received. The initiative and coöperation of municipalities, clubs and societies and business organizations present a support unrivaled by any other public institution.

The modern library and the modern librarian are new things. The old library was a warehouse wherein were entombed many and mighty volumes of books, but it was a luxury. The modern library is a laboratory, a workshop for the public, affecting the social side of life as well as the intellectual. It is an organic institution, a necessity, and is set on a hill. The librarian, from a mere intellectual jailer has become an administrative officer of no mean ability.

The modern librarian must be a scholar, a diplomat, a business man, a teacher, a disciplinarian, an executive, above all an organizer and director.

The characteristics of the modern library are catholicity, democracy and utility.

1) Catholicity. All knowledge is the province of the library. Science, art, religion, law, literature, military affairs, manners and customs, these constitute its life. Moslem and Jew, Hottentot and Hindu, Christian and Tartar, here speak without let or hindrance and without fear or favor. Here justice speaks without mercy and here walk again all the poor and princely people of the past. Here one may range all the boundless seas of limitless thought and action.

2) Democracy. Here everyone that thirsteth may come to the waters, without money and without price. Rich and poor, old and young, the lame and the halt, yea, even the blind may come.

Some time ago I had a personal experience illustrative of this democratic side of the library. While a teacher of a Sunday school class, I was utterly routed in a classroom discussion one Sunday by a poorly-dressed, ignorant-looking carpenter, who was a member of the class. The next day, while trying to get new light on the question, I found the carpenter in the library. On the next Sunday I was again put to flight by a traveling salesman, a man who sells axle grease. Going to the library again for aid I found both the carpenter and the axle grease man. On the next Sunday I resigned.

3) Utility. It is the workshop of the scholar, the teacher and the student. It is the schoolmaster of the public. It is the social and civic center. It is a sort of hub for the community's educational activities. It is the children's playground, the workingman's school, the scholar's laboratory and the gentle reader's paradise.

The three large institutional functions through which the library is serv-

ing us today, and which will more abundantly serve us in the future, are:

- 1) The conservator of the past.
- 2) The prophet of the future.
- 3) The disseminator of the book.

Professor Jackson eloquently and ably amplified these three characteristics in an address that held his audience for nearly an hour.

Miss Leatherman, secretary of the State library commission, set forth in a most interesting manner and with inspiring detail, the "Work and possibilities of a library commission." She made clear the assistance which the state stands ready to give any community concerning the establishment of local libraries, from the awakening of interest to the distribution of books.

At the close of Miss Leatherman's address a social session was inaugurated in a reception by the Goldsboro Woman's club. Refreshments were served and a pleasant hour was spent.

The final session was held on Friday morning. Letters and telegrams were read from absent members. Reports of various committees were heard and accepted. Resolutions were adopted expressing appreciation of the many courtesies and cordial hospitalities shown the association by the people of Goldsboro during the session of the congress; and an invitation was extended through Mrs M. C. Prather of the Carnegie library of Winston, to hold the next meeting in Winston. The invitation was extended to the executive committee.

Interesting discussions upon the topics, "Training college students and bibliography," "Training public school children to use the library," "Work with women's clubs" and "Library statistics and library advertising" were engaged in.

The following officers were elected for 1910: President, Louis R. Wilson, librarian of the University of North Carolina; first vice-president, J. Frank Wilkes, Charlotte; second vice-president, Bertha Rosenthal, Raleigh; secretary, Sarah Kirby, Goldsboro; treasurer, J.

P. Breedlove, librarian of Trinity college.

At the close of the morning's session the members were delightfully entertained by a luncheon given by the Goldsboro free library association.

**Vermont**—A library round table was held at Proctorsville, November 19, by the library commissioners in conjunction with the State library association. Miss Hobart, secretary of the commission, presided. Fannie B. Fletcher, president of the local association and a member of the State library commission, gave appreciative greeting to the visitors.

Mrs Kate W. Barney of Springfield, talked on "How to interest the public in their libraries." While realizing the value of wisely selected books in securing this end, she placed the influence of the librarian far above all books. "The librarian must know her books well, but people better; must advertise the library freely, and employ thought and discretion in providing reading that the men of the community will approve and find of practical value. She emphasized the part that any collection of material made by the librarian and exhibited in the library had, in attracting visitors to the place.

Mrs Rugg, secretary of the Cavenish association, and Miss French of the Wilder library at Weston, discussed the "Coöperative duties of the public and the librarian."

Miss Cilley of Plymouth said the state had given them 160 v., and funds had been raised by entertainment, but so far their taxpayers were not interested in raising money for library purposes.

Miss Fay of Reading has the distinction of having the greatest number of readers of non-fiction of any of the library centers in the state.

Miss Ingham of Vergennes emphasized their well-diversified collection of reference books for schools.

Miss Cheney of Rutland gave their circulation last year as over 63,000 v. The city is interested in the public li-

brary and it is the only library in the place.

Miss Pierce of Ludlow acknowledged the help of the local newspaper in keeping the library before the public.

Miss Smith of the Fletcher library of Burlington said that their charge of a few pennies for extra copies of books in greatest demand was most successful, and a number of volumes had been added thereby to the free circulation shelves.

Mrs W. P. Smith, superintendent of traveling libraries, advised against spending all the money at the disposal of the librarian for books at one time, since a few new books now and then arouse attention.

Mrs Chamberlain of the Abbott memorial library of Pomfret, opened for discussion the subject of "Coöperation between schools and libraries." The schoolhouses have been made branches of the public library in that place, Signboards, 18x10 inches, black, with white letters, are to appear on each schoolhouse, announcing to the passerby the presence of a branch of the public library. Lists of books will be sent to the schools and the teachers will have charge of these. A roll of honor of the names of children most worthy is to be placed in the library. Their manners to each other, to teachers, to dumb animals, the care of books and all town property, their temper and morals, all have weight, and each school is pitted against another in a laudable strife to obtain a long roll of honor.

Superintendent Roscoe of the Springfield district said in his opinion, that one great reason why pupils are not interested in reading, is the inability of the child to read understandingly. The teacher and the library must work together. The teacher must be interested in the books children are reading, and from time to time have book talks with the children, concerning the contents of these books.

The total attendance at the meetings was over 100.



### Interesting Things in Print

Number 33 of the A. C. McClurg & Co. bulletin is a catalog of rare and fine imported books, occupying 111 pages.

The University of Illinois library has issued No. 2 of Lists for students' reading. It is a representative list of 150 of the best foreign novels in English translation.

The Louisville public library has issued a leaflet containing a list of stories of American politics. It is pocket size and should appeal to the men users of the library.

The program for the coming International Congress of archivists and librarians, to be held in Brussels in the month of August, 1910, appears in the *Revue des Bibliothèques et Archives de Belgique*, vol. 7. no. 2-3.

One of the most attractive folders issued is that of the Carnegie library of Nashville. It is four pages, postal size, and gives 30 striking and interesting items about the library. The folder has been freely distributed throughout the city.

A very helpful appraisal of inexpensive, but desirable series of books, suited to library service, is furnished by Mr George Iles in the *Manitoba Free Press* of Nov. 27, 1909. The People's library, 100 v., 2d. each, The pocket classics, 1s. each, Everyman's library, 400 v., 1s. each, The World's classics, 156 v., 1s., New Universal library, 200 v., 1s. each, and the Scott library, 1s. each, are among the series reviewed as to contents and make-up.

The John Crerar library has issued a new and revised edition of its "Books in the reading room." It is a catalog of books kept on open shelves in the general reading room, which are used by the public without any formality. This collection includes significant books on subjects coming within the scope of the library, and such additional reference books as are required by the demands of

reference work. The collection contains about 4000 v. and undergoes constant revision.

Special mention is made of thanks due Mr C. H. Brown for the work of the revision.

The July number of the *Bibliophile* has a most interesting article on the library of W. B. Slater, rich in Swinburniana and necromancy. Under the title of Homeland books, there is a collective review of English travel and description. Frances Gorman has an exceedingly well-illustrated article on Yorkshire abbeys in the August number. Robert H. Benson has written a critical article on Jeanne d'Arc. Both issues may boast of illustrations quite beyond the ordinary.

The Church library association is an organization of Cambridge, Mass., formed for the purpose of examining books for Sunday school and parish libraries, and publishing such books as it can recommend. Annual lists and three general catalogs have been published heretofore.

The general catalog, No. 4, which has just been issued, contains all the best books still in print, recommended by the association during the past 30 years, together with the books recently printed.

The idea is not to sell books, but to assist others in obtaining books desirable for library use. The list is classified and a special fiction list for young people is given. The list covers 185 pages and undoubtedly will prove useful to those for whom it is intended. The list may be obtained for 25 cents from the Church library association, Cambridge, Mass.

A book carefully selected has a permanent value which no other form of gift can have. One's library should be a growth starting with the gift book of perhaps the seventh Christmas and growing broader and richer with years. Books grow old through association and with the passing of years become as real friends.



## News from the Field

## East

Edward C. Bixby, for a quarter of a century assistant librarian of the Providence public library, has resigned.

J. H. Bongartz, for 28 years State law librarian of Rhode Island, has resigned. C. F. Allen, who had been his first assistant, was appointed his successor.

## Central Atlantic

An exhibition of book-plates was opened in the Lenox library, New York City, December 1. The exhibit is devoted mostly to modern American work, though a few of the modern French, German, Dutch and South American plates are included. There is also a selection of books on the art.

Adolph Growoll, for many years editor of the *Publishers' Weekly*, died December 7, after an illness of ten days. Mr Growoll was 59 years of age.

In 1877 Mr Growoll joined the *Publishers' Weekly*, with which he remained up to the time of his death. The thirtieth anniversary of Mr Growoll's connection with the paper, June 19, 1907, was made the occasion of the presentation to him of a loving cup by his associates in the office.

He was the author of "Professional book selection" and many other works dealing with the book trade.

The report of the Pratt Institute free library for the past year particularly notes special study of the library community establishment, of library bulletin boards in small shops and restriction in use of the children's room. A series of maps were made showing the churches, the schools, philanthropic and charitable institutions, city offices, fire departments, police stations and jails. These maps make a background for observation and decisions referring to library service in the community.

The restriction in the use of the children's room affects the children who live outside of the library district, who, on asking for cards, are referred to the

Branch of the Brooklyn public library nearest them.

The attendance in the applied science room has passed the 20,000 mark.

The detailed list of occupations of new users and the list of stories told at the Story Hour are interesting.

President Noyes' report on the Public library of Washington, D. C., shows an increase of 23 per cent in circulation during the past year. The library has grown to nearly 115,000 v.; home circulation of books, 592,000 v.; adults in attendance, 100,000. The percentage in fiction in the last five years has decreased from 84 per cent to 63 per cent.

At the last session of Congress important legislation was secured by Dr Herbert Putnam, one of the trustees of the library, by which books for circulation were transferred from the Library of Congress to the Public library. Rapid progress is being made toward mutual supplemental work between the two great libraries, when one shall be the national reference collection and the other the national capital's great circulation library.

The library trustees renewed their petition to Congress, either to enact or to kill promptly, the measure, asking for permission to accept the offer of Mr Carnegie to build a Takoma Park branch library.

Special emphasis is laid on the urgent need for a larger and better paid force for the library. The inadequate force is weakened by frequent changes in its staff, because of comparatively low salaries and increased work. The library is handicapped in many directions by the indifference of Congress to the need of larger appropriations for its work.

The following are items from the report of the Librarian of Congress:

The increase of the library during the year shows a total of 212,119 pieces; by deduction of withdrawals, etc., this number decreased to 167,677, which shows the total of net accessions.

The Division of manuscripts reports

gifts of a large collection of papers illustrating the Shaker movement in Ohio, comprising letters, note-books, village records and other authentic documents of great interest. The Department of State transferred all the applications for office during the administration of George Washington, and the journal and minutes of the Electoral commission of 1877; the Treasury department, the original vouchers and accounts of General Washington's expenses during the whole period of his command of the army during the Revolution; the Interior department, the rich collection of historical documents filed in connection with the Revolutionary pension claims, and papers pertaining to the slave trade and negro colonization, 1862-1872; the Post-Office department, certain miscellaneous papers, being drafts of letters, opinions of assistant attorneys-general and application for office from 1825 to 1875.

The Division of documents shows a total increase of 28,178 pieces, comprising substantial additions by gift from foreign governments. Special attention has been given to the completion of sets of American municipal documents.

The Division of maps and charts shows a total increase of 6225 pieces. A "list of geographical atlases," which has been in progress for many years, is in press.

The Division of music records a total of 32,202 additions. We quote the re-

The Periodical division (total titles for the year: 13,597) contains the following account of important new additions and activities:

Notable additions to our files of Richmond and Charleston war papers were made by purchase. While in no case have we absolutely complete files of these papers, most of them were so nearly completed as to justify binding them in permanent form. They are bound in a style similar to that used for our eighteenth century papers, each issue being mounted on a guard and the volume so arranged that missing numbers can be inserted without difficulty whenever secured. Another important accession was by the transfer from the War department of a large number of papers published in Porto Rico and the Philippines during and shortly after the Spanish-

American war. These files were strong where ours were weak, in the first few years of American occupation. The combination of the two secures to us a collection of extreme interest and value. One item worthy of special mention is an almost complete file of *El Heraldo de la Revolucion*, the organ of the Aguinaldo government at Malolos.

A Check list of eighteenth century newspapers is nearly ready to print.

The Division of prints acknowledges very important gifts: The caligraphy of Italy (donated complete); those of Germany and France (increased substantially); the bequest by Mrs Gardiner Greene Hubbard of \$20,000 to be used for the purpose of adding engravings and etchings to the collection previously donated by Mr Hubbard.

The capacity of the Library building has been materially increased by the erection in the southeast court of a stack to be used in part for the shelving of bound newspapers.

The total expenditure for the Library proper was \$484,471.83; for buildings and grounds, including the erection of the new book stack, \$370,534.89.

The report of the Register of copyrights is of particular interest, as it contains the texts of the Berlin and Berne conventions and an index to international copyright conventions.

#### Central

Linn R. Blanchard, B. L. S., N. Y. '09, has been appointed librarian of the East Chicago (Ind.) public library.

Jane Brotherton has resigned as librarian of the Brumback public library, Van Wert, O. She has been succeeded by Corinne A. Metz, of Newark.

Sally Berryman, assistant librarian of the Highland Park branch of the Public library, Louisville, has been appointed librarian of the Crescent Hill branch.

Ida L. Rosenberg, superintendent of circulation, Public library, Grand Rapids, Mich., has severed her connection with the library, and will make her home hereafter in Seattle, Wash. Miss Rosenberg has been connected with the library since 1891, serving in different depart-

ments until 1904, when she became superintendent of circulation. The library parts with her service with great regret.

Mary Lytle has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Sedalia, Mo. Miss Lytle has been connected with the Public library of Superior, Wis.

Ada J. McCarthy, for three years librarian at Rhinelander, Wis., has resigned her position to become librarian of the Stevenson library at Marinette, Wis.

The Cleveland public library has issued for its Broadway branch a list of books in the Bohemian language. It is classified and forms a little booklet of 38 pages.

L. Ruth French, Simmons, '08, resigned her position in the Public library of Grand Rapids, Mich., to become cataloger of the Hackley public library, Muskegon, Mich.

Mrs Agnes D. Roddis, for seventeen years librarian of the Public library of Wauwatosa, Wis., has resigned on account of ill health. Winifred Bailey of Waupaca has been elected her successor.

Agnes Pederson, for several years city librarian of the Public library of Manitowoc, Wis., has resigned to join the staff of the Newberry library, Chicago. Lucille Cully, Wis., '08, has been appointed in her stead.

Bessie Sargent Smith, formerly librarian of the public library of Dubuque, and later assistant librarian at the library of Utica, N. Y., has been elected librarian of one of the branches of the Public library of Cleveland, Ohio.

The annual report of the Public library of New Brunswick, N. J., shows a circulation of 83,453 v. Open access in the past year has given great pleasure and satisfaction. The duplicate pay collection has been successful. Number of volumes in the library, 27,392.

M. Louise Hunt, formerly of Drexel institute library school, and for two years past librarian of the Public li-

brary, Lansing, Mich., has resigned her position to become reference librarian of the Public library, Portland, Ore. Mrs Elizabeth Daigh, Champaign, Ill., will succeed Miss Hunt at Lansing.

Patrick Cudahy of Milwaukee has given to the University of Wisconsin library and that of the Wisconsin Historical society, a collection of over 400 books and documents dealing with South America, especially with Chili and Peru. The collection is to form the basis of a library on South American affairs.

#### South

Thomas W. Davis, librarian of the Agricultural and Mechanical college of Mississippi, was married, December 22, to Jennie Jeffries Featherstone of Macon, Miss.

Forty thousand dollars has been donated by Andrew Carnegie for a library building for the University of Tennessee. The trustees of the university have been authorized to issue a certificate of indebtedness for a like amount, the interest of which is to pay running expenses of the library and go to the book fund. The university now has a library of about 30,000 volumes.

#### West

Ethel Mitchell, Simmons College library school, has been appointed librarian of the Public library at Boise City, Idaho.

The report of the Nebraska library commission for the year 1909 shows the following: Number of volumes in traveling libraries, 4520; in reserve collection for special study, 2543; in Bohemian traveling libraries, 630; number of places to which books were sent, 434; volumes sent out, 9677.

The Public library of Jamestown, N. D., reports a circulation of 22,498 v., an increase of 16,582 over last year, when it was on a subscription basis. An additional 1000 borrowers were registered; 405 v. were added by gift and 536 by purchase. Work with the schools has been promoted. Some 31 periodi-

cals were received as the gift of A. E. Dickey.

Thomas Windsor, for many years librarian of the public library at Trinidad, Colo., died at his home December 1, from paralysis, age 76 years.

#### Pacific coast

Robert A. Campbell of Wisconsin has been appointed chief of the department of sociology in the California state library. He succeeds Ernest Bruncken, who has been appointed assistant-registrar of copyright, Washington, D. C.

The annual report of the public library of Riverside, Cal., shows a circulation of 84,379 v. During the year 1634 v. were added to the library by purchase and 410 v. by gift. A branch library was opened at Arlington, June 1.

#### Canada

Plans are under way by the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Montreal, to erect a commodious library building and to devote a large sum of money to a creation of a public library. A valuable nucleus in a number of rare volumes is already on hand.

The Public library in Sarina has begun arrangements for adding a mechanics' department. By providing a room where mechanics can meet for discussion of matters pertaining to their trade, with technical books on the shelves around them, having an occasional lecture, and the teachers of the town giving assistance in mathematics, great good will be accomplished. It is expected that the education department will contribute to the scheme by holding examinations and granting diplomas to those mechanics who complete a course prepared for each trade.

#### Foreign

The report of the Public library of New South Wales for the year 1908 records 240,743 v. in the library; 109,992 v. were issued from the lending department, and 174,803 applications for books were made in the reference li-

brary. The per cent of fiction used was 55; 264 traveling libraries, containing 12,352 v. were sent to 124 centers; 1439 v. were sent to 16 different lighthouses; 3451 v. were sent to 58 branches of the Public school teachers' association; 847 v. were sent by post to individual students in the outlying country districts. The 8253 borrowers represent 200 different occupations and 300 giving no occupation.

The dedication of the Monkmearmouth branch of the public library of Sunderland was distinguished by the presence of Dr Andrew Carnegie. This branch was the last of the three libraries erected in Sunderland by a gift from Mr Carnegie.

The occasion was a notable one, many representative gentlemen and ladies from the vicinity being present. Mr Carnegie made the principal address, taking as his subject, "Libraries as cradles of democracy." Addresses were made by other distinguished gentlemen, and the occasion was one of mutual pleasure and satisfaction.

A bureau for translating and abstracting books and articles in foreign languages has been organized in the Yale university library.

The languages covered are: French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch, Russian, Polish, Yiddish, Czech, Japanese and Chinese.

The scale of charges varies according to the quality of the work.

**For sale**—A complete set of PUBLIC LIBRARIES; volumes 2-8 are bound. Address Julius Stern, 1023 Home Insurance Building, Chicago.

**Wanted**—The library of the University of Vermont, Burlington, is anxious to procure the following:

Hartig, Diseases of trees. Macmillan  
Smith, Field and garden crops. Macmillan.

Address Helen Shattuck, librarian.

## *Worthy Commendation*

A prominent librarian from the East, upon recently visiting our store, remarked "You have a wonderful store here! We have nothing like it in the East. I think we librarians could get many good ideas for our work through a study of your counters and the arrangement of your stock."

This particular librarian learned the following facts about our house.— ¶ That we have a more complete book stock than can be found on the shelves of any other dealer in the entire country.— ¶ That we have full supplies of School and College Textbooks, Scientific and Technical works, Theological and Religious books, and all the imported series of cheap Reprints.— ¶ That we have a special department devoted entirely to the interests of Public Libraries, Schools, Colleges, and University Libraries.— ¶ That this department handles their orders intelligently and satisfactorily, and that proper prices are given on all library orders.

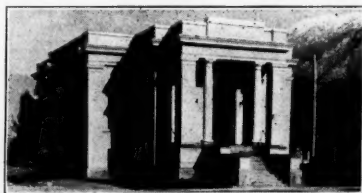
We should like to impress these facts upon the minds of all other librarians, whether or not they are already acquainted with our facilities. We respectfully solicit the patronage of libraries that are not now purchasing their books from us.

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During the past three years, two hundred and thirty library buildings in towns and cities of 500 to 100,000 population have been supplied with

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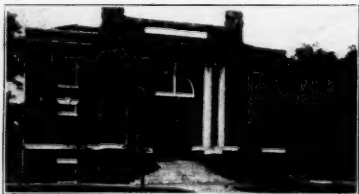
and therefore with furniture which is standard, durable and technically correct.

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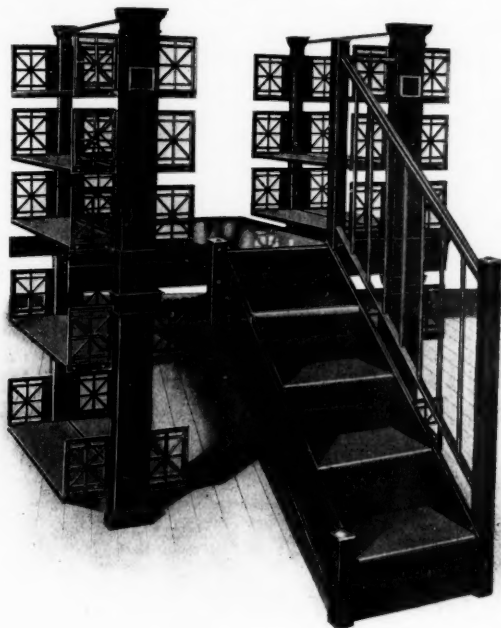


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Of the five types of library book-stacks which we manufacture, the notch-adjustment bracket stack represents the best of our 20 years experience in stack construction. For rigidity, adjustability, facility of expansion, ventilation, absence of dust-collecting surfaces and minimum of light obstruction, this stack is without an equal.

Brackets are of Doric Greek design, or of flanged plate steel. Gothic or other special design brackets and standard narrow or wide ornamental ends to harmonize with the architecture of the building are also furnished. Baked enamel, hand rubbed finish. Wood or metal shelves.

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